

LINKS ①-⑤ AT END OF P. 3
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The historic Golden Rule anti-nuclear sailboat will sail to Cuba at the end of December.

Golden Rule Project Manager Helen Jaccard said, "We are three-and-a-half months into a 15-month, 11,000 mile voyage around the "Great Loop" of the midwestern, southern and northeastern United States. When we saw we would be in Key West, Florida at the end of December, we said, 'Hey, look, Havana is only 90 miles away!' And the world almost had a nuclear war over Cuba." (See below for more information about the Cuban Missile Crisis).

"The Great Loop" path around the eastern half of the US with a side trip to Cuba

There are many reasons why the Golden Rule, owned by Veterans For Peace, is visiting Cuba:

- Implement the missions of the Golden Rule Project and Veterans For Peace to "to end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons."
- Educate the public about the Cuban Missile Crisis, which nearly caused a nuclear war. The lessons can help us all understand how to avoid such a fate in the future. (see below)
- Support ending the US blockade of Cuba. Veterans For Peace has long opposed the blockade, which is particularly harmful in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.
- Contribute to the worldwide effort to help the people of Cuba to rebuild and recover from this disaster. We will hopefully visit the most impacted area, Pinar del Rio, and report back on the recovery efforts.
- Express our friendship and solidarity with the people of Cuba.

Eight people will sail on the Golden Rule and eight other members of Veterans For Peace will ~~be~~ into Cuba to participate in the Arts and Culture program being coordinated by the Proximity ② Cuba tour agency. The Golden Rule will sail under a General License that allows US residents to travel to Cuba for educational and people to-people purposes.

"We will carry humanitarian aid and hopefully we will be able to make a substantial donation to help with rebuilding and medical care," said Gerry Condon.

Veterans For Peace and the Golden Rule Committee invite you to participate in this historic event by helping to cover the costs.

Unless you specify otherwise, all tax deductible donations during December will be divided 50/50 between the Golden Rule's costs for traveling to Cuba, and humanitarian aid for the Cuban people who are suffering greatly at this time.

4 Thank you for your support and for your solidarity.
www.vfpgoldenrule.org

Please support the Golden Rule voyage to Cuba!
Help us make a substantial donation for rebuilding and medical care!



[Donate Online](#)

Or send a check to:
VFP Golden Rule Project
PO Box 87
Samoa, CA 95564

Hurricane Ian - Blockade is harming people and the recovery: For many years Veterans For Peace has been calling for an end to the US blockade of Cuba. Now, many peace and solidarity groups in the US are calling for at least a temporary suspension of the blockade, to allow Cuba to rebuild after Hurricane Ian, which caused great devastation and destroyed as many as 10,000 homes in the western province of Pinar del Rio.

The Golden Rule's Anti-Nuclear mission implements Veterans For Peace mission: The storied wooden boat, which was sailed toward the Marshall Islands in 1958 to interfere with US nuclear testing, is currently in Tampa Bay, Florida. The 34-foot ketch belongs to Veterans For Peace, and carries out an important part of its mission, "to end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons."

The Cuban Missile Crisis: Sixty years ago, in 1962, the world came perilously close to a civilization-ending nuclear war during what became known as the "Cuban Missile Crisis." How did this

happen? Many of us will remember that the Kennedy administration discovered that the Soviet Union had placed nuclear missiles in Cuba, within easy striking distance of U.S. cities. This was of course unacceptable. President Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba, leading to a nuclear standoff. Kennedy then successfully negotiated with Soviet president Nikita Krushchev to avoid a nuclear war that neither man wanted.

What is less widely known is what led up to this alarming crisis. The CIA had armed and trained right-wing Cuban exiles in Florida who invaded Cuba intending to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro. The coup failed miserably, but the US had shown its hand. So Castro made the arguably reckless decision to allow Russia to deploy nuclear weapons on Cuban soil.

Why did Krushchev want to deploy missiles in Cuba? It was a response to the US stationing nuclear missiles in Turkey, close to Russia's borders.

What did Kennedy and Krushchev agree to avoid nuclear annihilation? Publicly, Kennedy agreed there would be no further military attacks against Cuba. And Krushchev agreed to remove Soviet missiles from Cuba. In a key side agreement – kept secret at the time – Kennedy also agreed to remove U.S. nuclear weapons from Turkey, which he did several months later.

US nuclear weapons are now back in Turkey, however, and also stationed in Germany, Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands, along with Anti-Ballistic Missile systems in Poland and Romania.

And 60 years later, the hostile U.S. policies against socialist Cuba continue. Most notably, the 61-year-old economic blockade of Cuba, which denies aid and trade with nearby U.S. – Cuba's most natural trading partner – and which punishes other countries for trading with Cuba. The U.S. embargo of Cuba is denounced annually by the UN General Assembly. This year only two countries – the United States and Israel – voted against the resolution condemning the blockade and calling for it to end.

"Without the US hostility to an independent, socialist Cuba, we would not have come so close to nuclear war in 1962," says Gerry Condon, former president of Veterans For Peace and president of the VFP Golden Rule Committee. "There are a lot of lessons to learn from the Cuban Missile Crisis. But have they been learned? The US seems to be making the same mistakes in Ukraine today. This time it is the US that has moved hostile military forces, including nuclear weapons systems, close to Russia's borders."

Links in the above newsletter:

1 - <http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org>

2 - <http://www.proximitycuba.com>

3- https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=J56GEZVCQDC74 (same as #5)

4- <http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org>

5 - https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=J56GEZVCQDC74 (same as #3)