

I have many reasons that led me to participate in the actions at Bangor on August 10, 2015, most of them are quite personal. I was born in Bremerton in 1945, on August 8th to be precise. My birthday became a reminder as I grew older that I was born between the horrible days that my country chose to drop the first atomic bombs on cities in Japan that were filled with civilians, causing hundreds of thousands of people to die immediately and untold others to die slowly for decades afterward. That cloud of nuclear weapons has been with me since my birth. August 2015 marked not only the 70th Anniversary of those horrific bombings but also brought my 70th birthday. Some might not understand this but over the last decade or so I have been visiting Bangor every August. It seems the best place for me to be on my birthday.

August 2015 marked the first birthday since I was married in 1981 that I've not had my husband with me as he died from cancer on 12/31/14. He was in the Navy during the War on Vietnam and served as a nuclear reactor operator for 4 tours of duty. I certainly cannot prove that he would not have gotten cancer without that; but no one in his immediate family or among his parents' generation ever had cancer. He came with me to Bangor for my birthday every year because although he believed nuclear power was good, so long as the management of the power plants was good, but he too

knew that nuclear weapons are never good. We both understood that our country had signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in 1970 and that we were not really living up to it!

I just could not acknowledge my 70th birthday without pointing out to the community in which I was born, raised and educated to age 18 that the nuclear weapons that are stored here are wrong. I've lived all over the US but moved back here to my home state in 1991. Living back here has brought home to me the dangers of nuclear weapons to all human life and I just cannot be quiet about it. I was terrified as a high school student about living in a community that was a major target during the Cold War but I believe it's worse today and I cannot remain silent.

I did what I considered to be the act of a good citizen, pointing out that which is wrong in my nation. What I did was to try to take a letter to the Base Commander at Bangor. My friends in the small community in Eastern Washington where I now reside are proud of me for exercising my First Amendment Right. If I am found guilty, it will be hard for them to understand but they will continue to support me and for that I am grateful.