

**Acceptance Speech for a Peace Award,
10th Annual Friends of Peace Event
Ottawa City Hall
September 29, 2012**

By Koozma J. Tarasoff

Thank you very much Ian Prattis and Friends of Peace.

Welcome to the Members of Parliament for being here. Also to the Charge d'affaires of the Bulgarian Embassy. Thank you Alex Atamanenko for introducing me.

Congratulations to Olivia Chow for Jack Layton, and to June Girvan!

Thank you to everyone, who came to this ceremony today!

It is an honour for me as a peace activist to accept this award!

My philosophical and spiritual bent stems from 60 years as a peace activist, anthropologist, and concerned citizen of planet earth.

A number of you may know me as a published author and host of the Spirit-Wrestlers website and blog, which have highlighted many of the worthy events of peace, environment and social justice.

Others may know me as a volunteer photographer, covering all the events of the past six Peace Festivals in Ottawa.

My passion for peace comes from many sources:

- My roots are with the Doukhobor heritage — the real one, not the one that is sensationalized by the media as nudists. My Spirit-Wrestler Doukhobor ancestors burnt their guns in Russia in 1895. This was the first world mass demonstration of 7,000 people against violence and killing. In the Doukhobor philosophy, nonkilling is a major pillar, which persists through the centuries to the present.
- Another influence is the legacy of the great Russian writer and philosopher Lev

N. Tolstoy, who was very close to the Doukhobors and who called war 'the slavery of our times'.

- Our great pacifists: Mahatma Gandhi, urged us 'to become the change we wish to see in the world,' and Martin Luther King Jr. inspired us to have a dream of a better future.
- The former US President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in his final speech to Congress said: 'Beware of the military industrial complex for it is the threat to our civilization today.'
- Johan Galtung and The Transcend Media Service of Norway stated that the military is 'a cancer that must be extirpated from humanity.'
- With the Physicians for Global Survival, I am also 'committed to the abolition of nuclear weapons, the prevention of war, and the promotion of nonviolent means of conflict resolution and social justice in a sustainable world.'
- Very important to me is that I am empowered by all of you here today who share **our passion for peace**. I share this award with **you**.

As peace activists, I believe we have to actively express our concern against the threat of militarism and war, which the American General Smedley Butler called 'a racket.' Let's stop that bloody enterprise, which is illegal and against any semblance of humanity. Let's work towards a warless world, based on a nonkilling ethic.

In 2007 I had the opportunity of meeting Glenn D. Paige of Hawaii at the first Global Leadership Forum on Nonkilling. In his pioneering research, Glenn Paige discovered that a nonkilling society is possible and has developed a Global Society of Nonkilling.

To the voices of hope and compassion for peace, we have to add the wisdom and the spirit of the late Jack Layton. His legacy of hope and the legacy of generations before him was a vision of Canada as a peace-keeping and peace-making country.

In Canada's Parliament today, let's create a Department of Peace, to ensure that the peace-making tradition will remain a reality. Sign the petition and support Bill C-373 in Parliament.

Finally, I believe when we have a vision, when we work together and when we persist,

we can change the world — one step at a time! Thank you again for the opportunity of sharing this award with you.

See [TARASOFF Koozma Peace Award](#), a 7 minute video of my speech posted by Dr. Qais Ghanem, Dialogue with Diversity Radio, with lots of background noise.

[Friends for Peace Award to Koozma](#), Spirit-Wrestlers blog, 9 Sept. 2012.
[Ottawa Peace Festival 2012 - Review and Photos](#)
[Spirit-Wrestlers.com](#)