

Peace Day 2025 — A Doukhobor Manifesto

By Koozma J. Tarasoff, and Dr. [Henry Beissel](#). April 2025

Internet link to this article: www.spirit-wrestlers.com/Peace-Day-2025.html

[All my Doukhobor Peace Day Messages](#) (1976-2025). — [Comments below](#).

This year's 'Peace Day' message and title were inspired by the phrase '**Doukhobor manifesto**' used by my friend the late Professor Beissel, an international poet and Doukhobor in spirit.

While thinking about this year's annual Peace Day, 135 years after our [ancestors burned weapons in 1895](#), I thought of my friend Dr. Henry Beissel who died this January 9, 2025.(1) In 2017 [we met by chance at a peace event in Ottawa](#), and immediately became friends. In the past 7-plus years we often shared how our different life paths shaped our common views of a nonkilling society. I [posted 3 of his articles and mentioned his thoughts about peace in several of my articles](#).(2)

In 2015 I wrote (bold added):

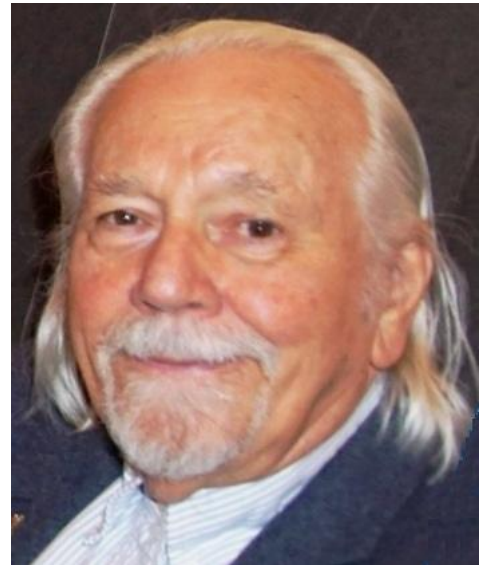
Because we all have the abode of God within us, it is wrong to kill another human being. This idea originates from the assumption that every individual, man, woman and child, regardless of age or sex, has a bit of a [Divine Spark](#) in them. Life is to be lived in accordance with the guidance of that Spirit. Herein lay the deep roots for the **Doukhobor manifesto** against conscription and military service.(3) A nonkilling legacy is a recent description of this Spirit.

In 2017, Dr. Beissel, who read that article, replied with his message for the 122nd anniversary of the Russian Canadian Dukhobors destroying weapons, which I posted (bold added):

I applaud the **Doukhobor manifesto** calling for peace and non-violence among all people. Never has that message been more essential than today, as the newly elected Liberal government proposes to spend several billion dollars to beef up our military to carry its warfare abroad more efficiently. That money would be better spent on such things as health care (including dental and mental care) for all and old age pensions so that all can live with dignity. When our political leaders speak with reverence of "our men and women in uniform", I remind myself that they are speaking of trained killers. Soldiers are killers. Soldiers are killers and we need to replace them with men and women of peace and love. Unless we can find our way to non-violence and peace globally and soon, we shall surely end up in a suicidal massacre.

So congratulations to you on the occasion of the centenary of the [Doukhobor Community Home in Veregin](#)! And thank you and your brothers and sisters for so courageously carrying on the struggle for reason and love. Here is a short section from a long poem I finished last week which I'm sending to honor your anniversary:

The poppy's bloom is a red flag
that signals the coming of winter – a fitting
adornment for our bloodthirsty romance
with killing and being killed
the deluded consider *dulce et decorum*.
It is neither sweet nor honourable
to die before your day is done,
and deafness affords no dispensation.
Listen and listen again:
every time a bullet flies or a bomb detonates
a till rings far behind the far flung battle lines
in the counting houses of those you never meet
and who never face the clash of battle:
war is the apotheosis of consumption.
Listen to the concert of ringing tills
and know they ring not for thee;
they ring in celebration
of the glories of maximizing profits.



All the best; Henry. July 15, 2017(4)

At a 2017 '[Remembrance Day](#)' public meeting in Ottawa, Dr. Beissel said that:
... peace is complicated. Economic corporate interests rule the world including hijacking the mainstream media, and making us consumers of extreme capitalism. 'I despise Remembrance Day because it glorifies wars, resulting in perpetual indoctrination of our youth for wars....What freedoms are we protecting? Canada has not been attacked for 200 years....We are closer to war today than in 1948. I am not sure what to do?' More than ever before, said Dr. Beissel, we need more cooperation to deal with issues of equality, injustice, and local services. To achieve this, we have a huge opportunity if we decide to stop wars and divert resources to urgent human needs.(5)

Dr. Beissel's poem '[Manifesto in Times of War](#)' (1986) is a good example of his masterful use of words (excerpt).

Tell the enemy this: Yes,
we're still writing poems, and if the grenades
blow off our hands, we'll sing them into the future

The complete poem was published in [150 Canadian Stories of Peace](#), November 23, 2017.
<https://spirit-wrestlers.blogspot.com/2017/05/150-canadian-stories-of-peace.html>

For this article I was drawn to Henry's use of the phrase '**Doukhobor manifesto**'. A manifesto is 'a public declaration of policy and aims'. A Google search for 'Doukhobor manifesto peace' generates an AI (artificial intelligence) list which is as precise as what I might have written. Give it a try: www.google.com/search?q=Doukhobor+manifesto+peace

References

1. [Obituary: Poet Henry Beissel wrestled with his childhood in Nazi Germany](#). By Andrew Duffy *Ottawa Citizen*, February 28, 2025. — An excellent biography with 4 photos of him at different ages. — <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/obituary-poet-henry-beissel>
2. [Peace Networking with Professor Beissel](#) : How I happened to network with another amazing pacifist in Ottawa. By Koozma J. Tarasoff. March 17, 2018. — With links to his work — <https://spirit-wrestlers.blogspot.com/2018/03/peace-networking-with-professor-beissel.html>
3. [Doukhobor Nonkilling Legacy](#), *Nonkilling Balkans*. December 2015, pp 187-215. <https://goo.gl/KGD7bR> ; [Wisdom of the Ages: Unified Doukhobor Beliefs](#) — Updated March 2015 <http://goo.gl/mL4hnB>
4. [Heritage Day – 2017 Celebration : Canada 150 / Historic Prayer Home 100 years](#), Veregin SK. <https://goo.gl/DPF6pP#bookmark=id.9m7vp4sagmyk>
5. [Remember peace and nuclear disarmament on 'Remembrance Day'](#), by Koozma J. Tarasoff Spirit-Wrestlers Blog, 13 November 2017. <http://spirit-wrestlers.blogspot.com/2017/11/remember-peace-and-nuclear-disarmament.html>
6. Historic 1895 Burning of Guns – descriptions, selections and translations. By Koozma J. Tarasoff with Andrei Conovaloff, June 24, 2009. Updated 7 October 2024. Link: goo.gl/JwimTW

Comments (Send to: KJTarasoff@gmail.com)

Patrick Konkin, Nanaimo, BC. May 5, 2025.

Thank you for the happily received note Koozma! 😊

I am pleased you are well and continuing to maintain the resolve of our ancestors for peace and understanding amongst all human beings. Best wishes,

Bill Bhaneja, Ottawa, Ontario. May 5, 2025.

This is superb – eloquent and timely. Assume you have copied others in CGNK on it: Anoop, Glenda, Joam. Mairead and Antonio (TMN)... If not I will forward it to them and others. Indeed a perfect reminder for pronouncing it on June 28-29 Global Nonkilling Day! Gratefully Bill

Bruce Cadbury, London, England. May 5, 2025.

*****WAR and ROAD DEATHS ARE NOT NORMAL*****

No Borders Just Horizons *No evoluciono, viajo*

“You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake.” - Jeanette Rankin

***War doesn't work. Peace does *** **Comfort the Disturbed and Disturb the Comfortable** *** **Road deaths are not normal deaths.** They are sudden and unnatural and families rarely have a chance to say goodbye. *If you thought Coronavirus was bad...wait 'till you experience **CLIMATE CHANGE**.*

Kenneth Billings, Sooke, BC. May 6, 2025.

Best wishes for Peace Day on the 135th Anniversary from Sooke, BC. Peace and love,

Ed Lehman, Regina, Sask. May 6, 2025.

Thank you for including me in your mail out for this year's peace day(s). I continue working for peace, social justice, and solidarity with the oppressed. When the details of the peace day are known I would appreciate it if you can send them to me. As well as sending out that information Heather and I would like to attend one of the peace days in Veregin or Saskatoon. Please accept my condolences on the passing of your friend Henry Beissel; I am sure he and you were a great inspiration for each other. For a non-killing world,.

Stanko Vuleta, Ottawa, Ontario. May 7, 2025.

Koozma, I have a great respect for you and Doukhobors.
What a world this would be if all of us were Doukhobors!

Professor (Dr.) Anoop Swarup, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. May 0, 2025

Koozma. Gratitude and thanks for sharing the plea towards a nonkilling world to be held on June 28-29, 2025 at Veregin and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; and in Castlegar, British Columbia. It is enormously significant that Canadian Doukhobors will observe the 135th Anniversary of the 1895 arms destruction by about 7,000 of your ancestors in Russia, and remember their sacrifices.

We share your hope for a world free from wars and like you do find inspiration from Lev N. Tolstoy, Peter V. Verigin and Glenn D. Paige. Also as reported recently from the renowned German-Canadian professor, poet, writer and dramatist, late Dr. Henry Beissel.

We are commemorating the Global Nonkilling Day on June 28th and will be sharing details with you (copied to Dr Katyayani Singh).

With profound regards and in nonkilling hope, Anoop

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