

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release

For further information contact JoAnn Blatchley at 952.922.0308 or [msphncc@gmail.com](mailto:msphncc@gmail.com)

**August Commemoration to Feature Veterans, National Experts**  
***3 Days of Events to Mark Anniversary of U.S. Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki,***  
***Japan***

*Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 23, 2009* - The 2009 Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration events in Minneapolis and St. Paul will feature a ceremony by veterans and talks by national peace and security experts. The events, spanning three days – August 5, 6, and 9 – will mark the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945. Events include:

- The annual August 6, 7:30 a.m. CEREMONY OF THE CRANES features Roger Hale speaking on RETIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AT AGE 65. Hale, former CEO of Tennant Corporation and current national chair for Ploughshares Fund Inc., will speak at the Spirit of Peace Statue at the Lake Harriet Peace Garden, just before the 8:15 a.m. moment of silence for the victims of the August 6, 1945, atomic bomb on Hiroshima.
- An all day vigil in the Peace Garden on August 6 includes the 11 BELLS CEREMONY at 11 a.m. Veterans for Peace Chapter 27 and Women in Black will recreate the joy following the end of World War I, considered so horrible that it must be the "War to End All Wars". Arjun Makhijani, president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER), will speak on the dangers of perpetuating a nuclear culture worldwide, a horror that was inconceivable when World War I ended.
- Other events include a 6:00 p.m. Tea Ceremony in the Peace Garden the night before on August 5, a concert for peace featuring Barbara McAfee and KAIROS dance at the Lake Harriet Bandshell on August 6, and the Nagasaki Commemoration on August 9 at the Global Harmony Labyrinth in Como Park in St. Paul.

All events are free and open to the public. The Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration Committee, an all-volunteer group of Twin Cities residents, offers these events to the community to encourage reflection on the past and hope for the future through action in the present. It calls for the total abolition of nuclear weapons throughout the world as one measure of ensuring a just and lasting peace. The full schedule of commemoration events can be found at [www.wilpfn.org/hn](http://www.wilpfn.org/hn) or [www.stpaulnagasaki.org/events.php](http://www.stpaulnagasaki.org/events.php) or call 952-922-0308.