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GOLDEN RULE PEACE SAILBOAT SET TO ARRIVE IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Groups Bring Message of Nuclear Disarmament Downstream from Savannah River Site
Nuclear Weapons Production Site



SAVANNAH 2/21/2023: The historic wooden sailboat *Golden Rule* arrives at the Rousakis Plaza Recreational Dock on River Street this morning for several days of educational activities about stopping the possibility of nuclear war.

Statewide environmental group Nuclear Watch South is among the organizations greeting and hosting the *Golden Rule* on its 11,000-mile "Great Loop" voyage and first-ever visit to the Georgia Coast.

On board the *Golden Rule* are Captain Jan Passion from San Francisco and First Mate Holly Clements of New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Teresa Grady with the Beyond Trident Campaign in Brunswick and Art Roche of Dubuque, Iowa, round out the crew of the 39-foot vessel.

The *Golden Rule* will offer open boat tours from 10AM - 1PM, Wednesday, February 22 at the Rousakis Dock.

Helen Jaccard, manager of the *Golden Rule* Project says, "We are 'Sailing for a Nuclear-Free World and a Peaceful Sustainable Future' to educate the public about the danger of nuclear war and how to stop that possibility. Last week we sailed past the Trident submarine base and saw one of the submarines. Each one has enough nuclear yield aboard to end most of life on earth.

“We are also here to learn about local issues — proposed plutonium pit production for new nuclear weapons at Savannah River Site, and the current state of progress towards racial justice. Georgia's environment is uniquely significant and also the birthing grounds of the North Atlantic right whale.

“The people of Georgia are most gracious and welcoming.”

Glenn Carroll, coordinator of Nuclear Watch South says, "Currently, the US spends \$84,000 per minute on nuclear weapons, more than all other nuclear-armed nations combined. Our great country lavishes billions of taxpayer dollars on contracts with corporations like Lockheed and Boeing while her citizens cry for housing and sufficient food, quality education, affordable medical care and a healthy environment. We welcome the *Golden Rule* and its mission as an opportunity to highlight the fact that 25% of the US nuclear arsenal is deployed from the Georgia coast at Kings Bay Trident submarine base. This awesome, deadly firepower starkly illuminates both the ever-present threat of annihilation of our home planet and the wholesale theft of our nation's riches to create a Doomsday Machine instead of ensuring the prosperity of all its people.

"We are telling our government for the fifth time in 30 years that we do not want to resume the arms race by building a factory to make deadly plutonium triggers at Savannah River Site upstream from Savannah. Nuclear Watch South calls for the United States to join the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and lead the world to a nuclear-free future."

History: The storied *Golden Rule* first sailed in 1958, carrying four Quaker peace activists towards the Marshall Islands with the intent to halt nuclear weapons testing. The US Coast Guard boarded her in Honolulu and arrested her crew, inspiring a global outcry.

The peaceful mission raised awareness of the dangers of radiation, prompting worldwide demands to stop nuclear testing. In 1963, the US, USSR and UK signed a Limited Test Ban Treaty banning all atmospheric nuclear testing.

In 2021, nuclear weapons were outlawed internationally by the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The *Golden Rule* team celebrates this Nuclear Ban Treaty and its significance as a tool for worldwide nuclear disarmament.

The original *Golden Rule* crew members made history in other ways as well. Jim Peck was a conscientious objector in WWII, member of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and trade union organizer. Albert Bigelow, captain of the *Golden Rule*, was Navy lieutenant commander of a submarine and captain of a destroyer escort in WWII. He resigned his Navy commission in reaction to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima one month before being eligible for his full pension.

Peck and Bigelow both participated in the 1961 Freedom Rides, Bigelow being seatmates and assaulted alongside John Lewis in Rock Hill, SC. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act became US law.

The *Golden Rule* sank in 2010, and for five years Veterans for Peace and other volunteers restored the boat and her original mission of nuclear disarmament and peace.

The *Golden Rule* was in St. Marys by Crooked River State Park from 2/9-2/13 and in Brunswick 2/14-20. On Saturday, February 18, the groups hosted "Dinner and a Movie" at the historic Ritz Theater in Brunswick, screening the 1995 thriller **Crimson Tide** starring Denzel Washington and Gene Hackman. The action takes place on a Trident submarine and the film was praised by Robert Ebert for "an uncommonly intelligent dramatization about the choices, dangers and duties of nuclear warfare." In the movie, Denzel Washington's character Hunter says, "In a nuclear world, the real enemy is war itself."

On 2/21-23 the *Golden Rule* will be in Savannah, Georgia.

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For more information see www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org and www.nonukesyall.org.

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