

The suddenly the process was  
the first part of protest...  
And this was why...




The blood on beads!  
The blood was dark, very dark,  
and it was in beads, the beads were  
on the dead in Viet Nam and to keep  
Johnson to have an open ended Christmas  
tree - you would think that would cause  
a little bit of a problem

This armband was worn by 13-year-old Mary Beth Tinker in 1965 to protest the Vietnam War, resulting in her suspension from school. It is pinned into a notebook she used for a school report.

*On loan from the personal collection of Mary Beth Tinker*

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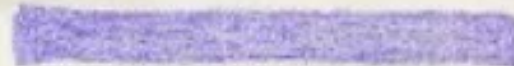
**WE MOURN**

ATTENTION STUDENTS!

Some high school and college students in Iowa who are interested in expressing their grief over the deaths of soldiers and civilians in Vietnam will fast on Thursday, December 16th. They will also wear black arm bands starting on that same day, December 16th. The National Liberation Front (Vietcong) recently proposed a 12-hour truce on Christmas Eve. The United States has not yet replied to their offer. However, Senator Robert Kennedy has suggested that the truce be extended indefinitely pending negotiations. If the United States takes this action the arm bands will be removed. If it does not the bands will be worn throughout the holiday season and there will be a second fast on New Year's Eve Day. High school and college students are also encouraged to forego their usual New Year's Eve activities and meet together to discuss this complex war and possible ways of ending the killing of Vietnamese and Americans.

A meeting in Des Moines on New Year's Eve will be held at the home of Bruce Clark, 925-29th, for further information call his home. The meeting is being sponsored by Liberal Religious Youth the youth organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association. All students interested in saving lives and ending the war in Vietnam are urged to attend.

PLEASE COME!



This notice was passed out in December 1965 to let students know about the upcoming action that was planned.

PETITION

We, the undersigned pupils of the Des Moines School System, feel that to wear something symbolic of our beliefs, such as arm bands, religious symbols such as Crucifixes or crosses about the neck, or pins of a reasonable size, such as those of political or fraternal origin, is our right of free expression. We believe it is not disruptive to the educational atmosphere of the school system, and that it is not an infringement of the basic rights of other students.

Mary Beth Linker

~~Christine Downing~~

~~Christine Downing~~

Marsha Stansell

This petition is one that Mary Beth circulated before and after classes on December 16, 1965, the day she was suspended. Students at the other schools circulated the same petition.

## D. M. Schools Ban Wearing Of Viet Truce Armbands

*R 12-15-65*  
By Jack Magarrell  
Des Moines school officials said Tuesday that high school students will not be permitted to wear black armbands at school in support of a truce in Viet Nam.

A few students at Roosevelt High School were reported planning to wear the armbands Thursday.

Several groups of Iowa college students opposed to U. S. policy in Viet Nam have designated Thursday as a day of fasting and wearing black armbands to encourage U. S. acceptance of a Viet Cong offer of a 11-hour cease-fire on Christmas Eve.

Roosevelt Principal Charles Rowley refused to comment on the school's attitude toward the armbands.

E. Raymond Peterson, director of secondary education, met with high school principals Tuesday to assure a uniform policy.

Questioned about the policy, Peterson said, "For the good of the school system, we don't think this should be permitted."

"The schools are no place for demonstrations," Peterson said. "We allow for free discussion of these things in classes."

Peterson said the decision not to allow students to wear the black armbands was based on a general school policy against "anything that is a disturbing situation within the school."

School officials believe the educational program would be disturbed by the students wearing armbands, he said.

Peterson said the meeting with high school principals dealt with several other matters which school officials considered more important than a proposal by "eight or 10 students" to "get publicity" by wearing armbands.

FILED

JUL 25 1966

F. E. VAN ALSTINE  
CLERK, U. S. DISTRICT COURT

DEFENDANTS

Exhibit

Cause No. *7-1810-C*

Date *JUL 25 1966*

U. S. District Court  
Southern Dist. of Iowa



JUN • 68

Mary Beth Tinker. June 1968.  
Mary Beth Tinker's personal collection.

This article from the *Des Moines Register* was submitted as evidence in the District Court trial. The article explains the school board's preemptive decision to ban wearing black armbands in support of a truce in Vietnam. The board decision was made two days prior to the students wearing armbands at school.

Image courtesy of National Archives, Magarrell, Jack, "D.M. Schools Ban Wearing of Viet Truce Armbands" The *Des Moines Register*, 15 December 1965