

Protester was a patriot; he wasn't suicidal

A member of the Bill Motto Post 5888 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Brian Willson, was run over and maimed by a munitions train at the Concord Naval Weapons Station as his wife, son and friends looked on horrified.

Members of Post 5888 are deeply shocked and righteously angered that such a thing could happen in this country, a country members of this post have fought to protect.

We know Brian Willson as a man deeply committed to the cause of world peace, a man willing to risk his

life so that thousands of innocent men, women and children in Central America might be saved from U.S.-made bombs. Bill Motto Post ranks Brian Willson among the greatest American peacemakers and patriots.

We also know he is not suicidal. He did not leap in front of the train, as press photos clearly verify. Brian and his fellow protesters made it clear to the Navy officers that they were staging a peaceful protest and would accept one of three alternatives as a way of ending the protest: (1) stop the shipments of arms to Central Ameri-

ca, (2) arrest the protesters, or (3) run over the protesters. It seems as if the choice was intentionally made to deliberately run Brian Willson down.

The maiming of Brian Willson, horrible as it is, should give peace-loving people everywhere courage, not fear. For while a rolling train can cripple a man, no misguided master of war can ever roll over a united, diligent and fearless quest for peace.

— Steve Brooks

Commander, Bill Motto Post 5888, VFW
Santa Cruz

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