



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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Dear VVAW Supporter,

I'd like to thank you for your continued support of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW). Without you, we could not continue the important work that we began in 1967. Over the last forty-seven years we have carried out the struggle for veterans, peace and justice. My name is Ann Hirschman and I am a member of the VVAW Board.

I have been active in VVAW since the very first demonstration in 1967. As a Nurse Practitioner, I joined the struggle for peace and justice as a street medic with the Medical Committee for Human Rights. The organization provided medical support for demonstrations first in the civil rights movement during Freedom Summer of 1964 and then later for anti-war demonstrations. I was also part of the Vietnam Peace Parade Committee in New York City. As part of VVAW, I participated in a countless number of events, from the march at the 1972 Republican National Convention through Winter Soldier II in 2008. In 1973 I participated in the Wounded Knee Incident as a volunteer medic. In addition to being a street medic at anti-war demonstrations, I helped create a first aid course and train volunteers to provide medical and first aid support at events.

My career as a Nurse Practitioner and my dedication to peace have always intertwined and led me down a path of working with Vietnam veterans in a variety of settings. As part of the American Public Health Association's Peace Caucus, I've helped organize and moderate panels on Agent Orange, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other veterans' health concerns. In 2010, I joined the VVAW Board of Directors.

I am proud to be part of Vietnam Veterans Against the War as we celebrate 47 years of organizing for veterans, peace and justice. And I know we would not be here today without your sustaining support. As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the Gulf of Tonkin incident this year, and what is often seen as the beginning of the Vietnam War, we continue to struggle against the re-writing of the history of the Vietnam War. In "honor" of the anniversary, the Department of Defense has launched a "commemoration" campaign that white washes the real stories and experiences.

We know that there is still so much to be told about the Vietnam War as veterans continue to write new books, speak to high school classes, and write articles for VVAW's free semi-annual newspaper, *The Veteran*. Re-writing the history of the Vietnam War began before the war even ended and you can read about it previous issues of *The Veteran*. This is where we can all contribute and share our experiences so collectively we can counter the whitewashing and re-writing of the Vietnam War. You can speak to classes or share your stories and experiences. If you would like a written story to be considered for publication in *The Veteran*, please email VVAW at vvaw@vvaw.org.

The Veteran was the first voice of Vietnam veterans in America, and has consistently addressed issues of peace and justice. Original articles on Post Traumatic Stress and Agent Orange have appeared since its first year of publication. As the first part of VVAW's archive project, you can now view PDF documents of all of the issues online at <http://www.vvaw.org/veteran/>, along with searchable text for most issues.

VVAW is undertaking an archiving project of photos, flyers, publications, and other

materials documenting the history of VVAW and its members. We are in the process of surveying the archives that are already established, including the collections at the Wisconsin Historical Archives, the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections at Cornell University, and the Vietnam Center and Archives at Texas Tech University. If you are aware of other larger archives like these, please contact VVAW at vvaw@vvaw.org. In the near future, VVAW will be seeking contributions to the archive project and we will put out a call for items. The archive project is essential in preserving our experiences for generations to come, so that our fight for peace, justice and the right of all veterans carries forward to the next generation.

Thanks to your continued support of our organization and mission, VVAW has been able to work with and help support our younger veterans in Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW). The Chicago chapter of IVAW, along with the support of organizations like VVAW, struggled back against Senator Kirk's (IL) sponsorship of Senate Bill 1881, which called for further sanctions on Iran and for the US to militarily support Israel if they were to take military action against Iran. This bill, supported by the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), came after an unprecedented year of positive negotiations with Iran around their nuclear weapons.

As the bill gained bipartisan support, the Chicago chapter of IVAW spearheaded protests and call-in days targeting Senator Kirk. The local chapter gained support of the IVAW national office and in mid-January, more than seventy organizations across the country signed on to a public letter calling on Congress to not support the bill. The campaign against Senate Bill 1881 resulted in President Obama publicly coming out against the bill and finally on February 6, AIPAC even came out against any immediate vote on the bill. These organizing efforts helped prevent governmental actions that could have led the US into yet another unnecessary war. The work and collaboration of IVAW and VVAW shows that the voice of veterans will always be needed to keep our country moving away from war, and moving towards peace and justice.

We hope you can make a **tax-deductible** contribution to support VVAW's work, at whatever level. Every donation, no matter the size, enables us to carry on the struggle for veterans' rights by issuing our free semi-annual newspaper, sustaining our continued efforts to fight for the benefits for all veterans, and opposing unnecessary and illegal wars waged by our country. **Again, thank you for your continued support to further VVAW's mission of peace, justice, and the rights of all veterans.**

Sincerely,

Ann Hirschman

Ann Hirschman
VVAW Board Member

I am sending Vietnam Veterans Against the War \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other to support its work for peace and for decent benefits for all veterans. Donations to VVAW are tax deductible. You can also donate online at www.vvaw.org, a one-time or monthly donation.

Name (print) _____

Address _____

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