



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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"Hello, I am a 12th grade student at NYC iSchool. I'm in a class called Counterculture and Protest and my final project is to interview a couple of Vietnam veterans or protesters against the war from the 1960's. I would like to know if you could answer these questions for my assignment. Thank you!"

Dear Friend,

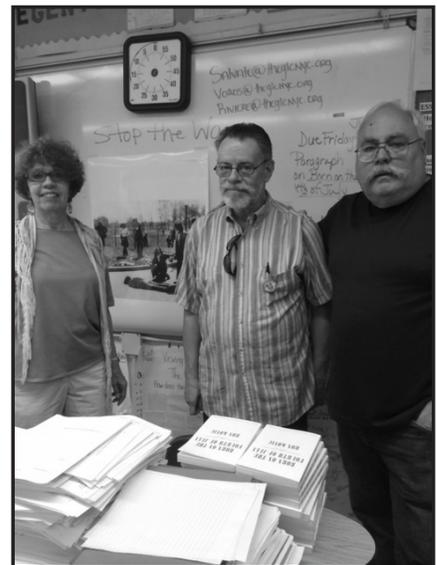
This is from one of the many emails Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) receives from students across the country, asking us to speak to them, to answer questions about the war, and the movement against it. Since the first time we marched together for peace, justice, and the rights of all veterans in 1967, we knew we would have to be the ones to tell **our** stories. We knew that our voices needed to be heard and the way to make them heard was to speak directly to the people.

Nearly fifty years later, we continue to bring our stories and our voices to the classroom. In the New York/New Jersey area, VVAW members are forming a speaker's bureau to coordinate and handle all of the classroom visit requests they are getting.

In Chicago, long-time VVAW member Barry Romo continues to speak in some of the same classrooms he has visited consistently for the past 40 years, often bringing along members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW). Just recently, Barry was able to tell one of his most transformative stories to National Public Radio's Story Corps. His story was shared across the country and will be preserved in the Library of Congress for future generations to hear.

And online, we answer requests like the one above year round. Whether it is Dan Lavery in California, John Zutz in Milwaukee, or Ed Damato among others in New York, we try and make sure these students hear our voices and our stories.

Despite the continual effort to rewrite the history of the Vietnam War and write us out, courageous teachers across the country make sure their students are exposed to the history of VVAW and our role in ending the war against Vietnam. Countless VVAW members have sacrificed their time (and often some part of their sanity) to share what made them resist the war. While a few great resources exist, it has always been up to us and our allies to make sure our stories of the war, and of the resistance are heard. **It is because of your ongoing support that we are able to share our stories in the classrooms, online, and in our free semi-annual newspaper, *The Veteran*.**



A classroom visit at Brandeis High School in New York.

Our stories are not just meant to be the stories heard over a beer at the VFW or the American Legion. Our stories are meant to educate, to hopefully inspire, and to awaken those who hear our stories to action. Our experiences and how we were led to believe a pack of lies, then rejected them, and finally fought to expose and overturn them can be a helpful primer for the youth of today to view the current – and future – wars, and inspire resistance.

Have you shared your experiences with students in your area? Recently, long-time VVAW member Joe Miller retired and relocated. After settling in, he visited his area high schools, gave them his contact information, and explained to them what he was willing to talk to their students about. You can also take part by contacting schools near you and offer to share your stories.

As part of sharing our story, we have been actively focused on our Archive Project. Over the past few years, VVAW staff have worked to fully digitize VVAW's newspaper, *The Veteran*. Check out the latest issue on our website. Our current focus is on digitizing photos and videos that we have of VVAW events and members. As the videos go online, you can view them at VVAW's media gallery, located at vvaw.org/gallery.

In these hard times, we understand the demands on everyone's limited resources. **So, we are deeply thankful when our members and supporters make tax-deductible donations to VVAW's work, at whatever level.** Your donations to VVAW help us keep distributing our newspaper, *The Veteran*, to our members, friends, and supporters, and to pass out while visiting classrooms, the library, or the local VA. Your donations also keep our website going, where we have 45 years worth of VVAW newspapers online, as well as many other articles, photos and videos. Your donations are enabling us to carry out our Archive Project so that we can scan photos and dub videos from our long history and make VVAW's legacy not only accessible to all through our website but also archive them for generations to come.

Take this opportunity to make an end-of-the-year tax-deductible donation before December 31 so that you can claim it on this year's tax return. We thank all of you for your continued support. On behalf of VVAW's staff and Board, we hope you have a safe and wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,



Bill Branson

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

Name (print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail Address (please print clearly) _____

Phone _____