



# VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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Dear Friend,

**Thank you for your ongoing support of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW).** Without your active participation – whether by attending events, taking action, joining in our Facebook group discussions, or financially making a tax-deductible contribution – we would not be able to carry on our struggle for peace, justice and the rights of all veterans for the last forty-eight years.

## **The Never-Ending Global War on Terror**

When we returned from the Vietnam War and began organizing against the war in 1967, there was a strong anti-war movement growing across the country. We were able to join with, and lead, mass organizing direct action against the war.

There isn't that same movement today against the global war on terror. While anti-war sentiments run deep across the country, community organizing against a never-ending amorphous war on terrorism is difficult. The war started as a response to the events of 9/11 as the US led invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan justified as a search for Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda. Now, after the declared ends of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, we still have troops deployed, fighting counterinsurgency, ISIS, Syria, and more. Tomorrow there will be a new target in this never-ending war on terror.

As these so called wars against terror become more privatized and corporatized, the war profiteers dictate our government's policies. But our country's warmongering has consequences. We know firsthand the physical, emotional and psychological effects of combat. Our VA system is collapsing under the weight of the overwhelming need. As our generation ages and we need more health care services from the VA, our younger brothers and sisters are coming back and waiting, waiting, waiting for treatment of physical and psychological wounds.

While a handful of Congressional leaders are earnestly trying to reform the VA system, many politicians preach that they "Support Our Troops" but seem more concerned with war profits than with supporting our veterans. Many of the rabid dogs of profit anticipate a rich feast, from the remains of a dead and "privatized" VA. While there may not be the same collective direct action we led in response to the Vietnam War, we still have a very important role to play in shaping our country's future. **We need your continued support in whatever way you can help.**

## **Continue Our Legacy – Give Veterans A Voice**

Join VVAW in furthering the legacy of Vietnam-era veterans. **Because of supporters like you, VVAW is able to publish our semi-annual newspaper *The Veteran*, sent out to over 17,000 supporters across the country.** VVAW has completely archived all 119 issues of *The Veteran* online at [vvaw.org/veteran](http://vvaw.org/veteran). You can view all of the articles as searchable text as well, and you can view and download the scanned original issues. *The Veteran* was the first voice of Vietnam veterans in America, and has consistently addressed issues of peace and justice. It has featured original articles on PTSD and Agent Orange since its first year of publication in 1971. It continues to serve as a unique and essential voice sharing veterans' experiences and opinions. You can participate by sharing your take on recent events, your experiences with the VA, recollections from the war, poems or other articles for an issue of *The Veteran* by submitting it to [vvaw@vvaw.org](mailto:vvaw@vvaw.org).

VVAW is continuing forward with our Archive Project to preserve the work of VVAW and its members for future generations. Our goal is to archive photos, flyers, publications, and other materials documenting the history of VVAW and its members. We will be posting more information about the Archive Project to our website this summer. In the meantime, you can prepare by organizing items you have and thinking about what items you might want to have archived. *Stay tuned for more information later this summer!*

VVAW also maintains a group page on Facebook where VVAW members, supporters and friends can share and discuss matters affecting veterans. Join the conversation and share your perspective at [facebook.com/groups/vvawinc](https://facebook.com/groups/vvawinc).

VVAW has proudly participated in helping to organize the Chicago Standdown twice a year to help local homeless veterans. This event gives veterans a chance to access social services, get a haircut, pick up personal items, and eat a good meal in one place. You can help our brothers and sisters by getting involved in a local or regional Standdown. Visit [va.gov/homeless/events.asp](http://va.gov/homeless/events.asp) to see if there is an event in your area. If there isn't, help get one started!

VVAW members are now scattered across the country, and across the world. We can use the newspaper and Facebook to stay connected with each other and to get our voice out there. We also need to be there for younger veterans, as well as our brothers and sisters of our generation who need help. While we may not be able to participate in collective direct action like we once did, the collection of our individual actions do indeed shape our future. As Howard Zinn put it best:

*"If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory."*

### **Support VVAW**

We understand the demands on everyone's limited resources. **We are deeply thankful when our members and supporters make tax-deductible donations to VVAW's work, at whatever level.** Your donation enables us to carry on VVAW's legacy through issues of our free semi-annual newspaper and sustain our continued efforts to achieve decent benefits for all veterans. **We thank all of you for your continued support.**

*William Branson*

Bill Branson  
VVAW Board Member

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](http://www.vvaw.org).

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

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