



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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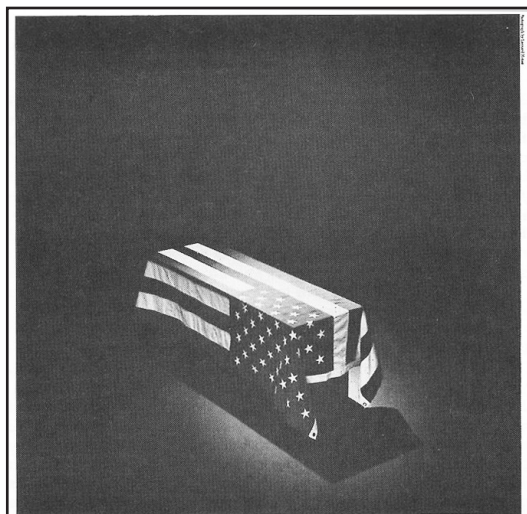
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"I first saw these pics on the cover of Stars and Stripes, sitting on an LZ, somewhere North of DaNang, waiting to go out on a mission. Changed my life."

Dear Friend,

Recently, a Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) supporter saw this photo on VVAW's facebook page and commented how these photos of VVAW protesting in *Stars and Stripes* changed his life. Beyond the mission of peace, justice, and the rights of all veterans that brought us together, VVAW has provided a home and a family for GIs and veterans since we came together at our first protest in 1967. The emotions provoked by seeing this photo nearly 50 years later speaks to the lasting impact of VVAW. **Thanks to your ongoing support, we have been able to continue to carry out this work for another year.**



In the last ten years, over 335,000 of our buddies have been killed or wounded in Vietnam. And more are being killed and wounded every day. We don't think it's worth it.

We are veterans of the Vietnam War. We have fought and died from the swamps and hills of Vietnam to the plains of Cambodia. We have seen our Vietnam buddies and ourselves being massacred. We have seen the Vietnam War for ourselves, and from what we have seen, we believe that it is wrong, unjustifiable and contrary to the principle of self-determination on which our nation was founded.

We believe that the Vietnam War is a civil war and we believe that the United States has no right to challenge the sovereignty of a nation that has the right to choose its own government. It is really a civil war. We don't think that in the kind of government worth fighting for.

We have seen what the war is doing to our own country. We see today's problems. Our young people are being alienated. Our most pressing domestic problems are being neglected for lack of funds while the war which has already cost us \$130 billion goes on at \$100 a second. \$400 a minute. \$2,400,000 an hour. Meanwhile the value of our dollar is being destroyed by inflation. And we don't think that's OK.

We have seen what the war is doing to our buddies and their families. Over 42,000 have already been killed and another 292,000 wounded—many of us trained for the rest of our lives. And more are being killed and wounded every day. And we don't think that's worth it.

We believe that the basic problems of Vietnam are not military but social, economic, and political. We believe that there is no military solution to that war. We believe that, in any case, we cannot win a land war in Asia. And we believe that if the major agencies national leaders do not resign to see it.

Therefore, we believe that the best way to support our buddies in Vietnam is to ask that they be brought home, now, before anyone else dies in a war that the American people do not understand, did not vote for, and do not want. And we think that that's worth fighting for.

If you're a Vietnam veteran and feel the same way we do we ask you to join us. If you're a concerned citizen we ask you to support us by filling out the coupon below. But we ask you to please do it now. The lives of a great many of our friends depend on it.

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As we dig through old photos, videos and other material from VVAW's past, we are once again reminded of the power of VVAW and our impact. How many of you first saw us or heard about us while still in Vietnam? We know our iconic full-page ad in *Playboy* in 1970 reached thousands, based on the 30,000 new memberships it generated within a short time. What VVAW gave those of us still overseas was hope. When we got back, VVAW gave us a place to be with other veterans with similar experiences, a place to make change, and a family.

As we approach our 50th anniversary, we have been actively focused on our Archive Project. At the beginning of 2014, VVAW began the project to document and preserve the work of VVAW and its members for future generations. Our goal is to archive photos, videos, flyers, publications, and other materials documenting the history of VVAW and its members. Over the past few years, VVAW staff have worked to fully digitize VVAW's newspaper, *The Veteran*, by creating PDF documents of each issue and also typing up the articles to create searchable text for the VVAW 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.

Barry Romo often talks about how many of us still keep in touch with those we served with. But for many in VVAW, our service to the anti-war movement when we got home was what bound us together. It's what made us family. It's what got us through the death of our comrades in the jungle, the death of them back home, and now it helps us get through their death, whether the result of exposure to toxic chemicals while we served or as the result of combined years of living with the guilt of what we did and what we participated in gnawing away at us.

Recently in July, some of us gathered to say goodbye to our old comrade Dave Curry. Curry was a member of VVAW since 1972 and was a national VVAW leader for many years. He was a professor emeritus in criminology and criminal justice at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. We gathered to share stories, to grieve together, and to keep his memory alive. At the memorial, over and over it was emphasized how the extended VVAW family played such an important role in the survival of Dave and his family. That role is not over. It's not over for his wife, his ex-wife, or his 21-year-old daughter. The stories are told not just to remember the past, but also to keep the memory of how change can be made, how we can work together, and how that does make a difference.

We know a comment on old VVAW photos is only a tiny part of VVAW's continuing legacy, but it is by no means insignificant. By digging into the past, we are fighting to keep the truth about what we saw and experienced during our service out there and we are fighting against the mainstream whitewashing and rewriting of the Vietnam War. We are reminding younger generations of how societal change can be made through meaningful mass community organizing. We have been organizing to make that change since we first formed nearly fifty years ago.

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, sustain our continued efforts to achieve decent benefits for all veterans and help support our Archive Project. **We thank all of you for your continued support.**

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.

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