



# VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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*"This modest contribution is written in appreciation of the fine piece by Scott Franklin in The Veteran of Fall 2016. I was in the Army in WWII but never sent overseas. I am now age 98, in Assisted Living. I am sharing this issue of The Veteran with sons and grandchildren in the hope that its profound message will get through to them. Thank you!"*

*- Ed Howden, VVAW supporter*

Dear Friends,

As Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) approaches our 50th anniversary next year, we can look back on our fight for peace, justice, and the rights of all veterans with pride. Now, less than two months before President-elect Donald Trump takes office, our mission is more essential than it has ever been. The struggle continues, perhaps tougher than ever.

As VVAW approaches our 50th anniversary, we will be working on anniversary events next September in Milwaukee and New York, along with some online celebrations. VVAW continues to be an important outlet for veterans' voices and experiences. VVAW has never stopped working to protect the welfare of those who served our country. We knew regardless of who won the election, there would be severe challenges ahead of us. But a President Trump represents a truly terrifying future. Trump has never served in the military nor in public office, yet he will be our Commander-In-Chief.

We must be ready to mobilize against his racism, his temper tantrums, and idiotic, colossal arrogance. We must struggle against our government carrying out more atrocities in our name and creating another new generation of veterans. **Thanks to supporters like Ed, we can continue to carry out this legacy to prevent and fight against unjust wars like the one in Vietnam.**

We must continue the struggle to end the many, current conflicts. This will not happen without our constant vigilance and agitation. Fifteen years after we invaded Afghanistan, and thirteen years after we invaded Iraq, we still have troops on the ground; US-led forces are bombing ISIS in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Libya.

VVAW must also continue to fight for the rights and dignity of veterans at home. During Trump's campaign, he talked about how he wanted a Purple Heart (yet did not serve) and was gifted one. A Purple Heart is awarded to veterans wounded, or killed, during service. Too many of our brothers and sisters receive this honor at their funeral. For those GIs who escape with wounds, a lifetime of pain and disability may result. Yet for him it's just another unearned award he can put on his trophy shelf, with no concept of the service or sacrifice involved. He repeatedly and viciously attacked Mr. and Mrs.



Khan, Gold Star parents who lost their son in 2004, because they spoke out against Trump's anti-Muslim rhetoric and plans to restrict immigration based on religion.

Trump insinuated that veterans with PTSD were somehow "weak" for having this disorder. VVAW was one of the first veterans' groups to fight for the recognition and treatment of PTSD in the early 1970s. Trump clearly has no sympathy or understanding of what veterans have witnessed and continue to go through on a daily basis. While he wants to "improve" and restructure the VA, we must make sure he, and the new rightist dominated Congress, do not dismantle and privatize it. **With your continued support of VVAW, we can continue to carry out the struggle to protect the rights of all veterans.**

We have lost many good brothers and sisters since our struggle first began. We can't organize like we did when we were 20, but we know what needs to be done and how to do it. We have seen the horrors of war, and have seen the power of collective organizing. Now it might only be our voices, not our bodies, that we can put on the line. But we will continue to do what we can, and give what we are able. We know what our mission is. We must expose the lies and fight for peace, justice, and the rights of all veterans. We fought against Nixon for two terms. We can, and will, fight against Trump. For the sake of current and future veterans, we cannot let him be more than a one-term president.

In these hard times, 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 donations to VVAW help us keep distributing our newspaper, *The Veteran*, to our members, friends, and supporters; you can also pass out copies to your family, like Ed, to your local library, or your local VA. Your donations also keep our website going, where we have 46 years' worth of VVAW newspapers online, as well as many other articles, photos and videos. Your donations allow us to make VVAW's legacy not only accessible to all through our website but also archive them for generations to come. We need to preserve our legacy and to be an outlet for veterans now more than ever.

**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!

In solidarity,



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).

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

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