



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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"The American public saw the war on TV. They had to see us on TV. People's experience was not being in a rice paddy, but watching someone in a rice paddy. We had to interrupt their seeing war on TV with their seeing veterans demonstrating against the war on TV.

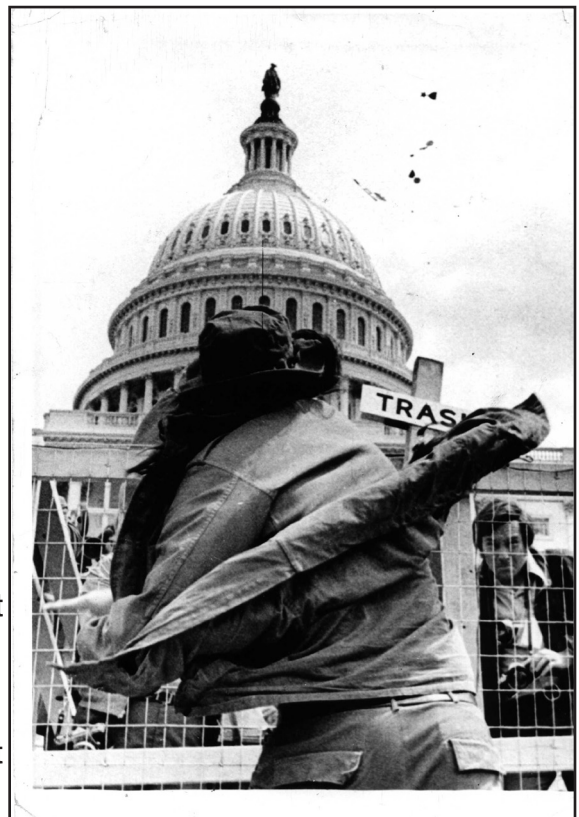
We had to interfere with their line of thought, and that was the only way to do it. We know, and they don't. We're telling you that what you see on TV is not it. It's part of it, but it's not it, and it's wrong and you've got to bring people home."

- Barry Romo talking about Dewey Canyon III from Richard Stacewicz's Winter Soldiers

Dear Friends,

45 years ago, Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) undertook one of our largest actions since our inception four years earlier, Operation Dewey Canyon III. From April 19-23, 1971, VVAW held a "limited incursion" into Washington DC to bring our brothers home once and for all. We hoped, among other things, to support legislation to end the funding of the war machine that allowed for the Dewey Canyon incursions into Laos. **With your continued support of VVAW, we can continue to carry out this legacy to prevent and fight against unjust wars like the one in Vietnam.**

Since we, as vets, had such extensive training in "limited incursions" carried out by our government, we decided to put our skills to work on the home front with a "limited incursion" into Washington DC. During the course of that week, veterans stood up to, and beat, all the attempts that the government had used to stop the demonstration. We backed down the most powerful apparatus of the country – the President, the Supreme Court, and Congress. It forged a unity amongst us all that carried on afterwards among the veterans and our own organization, VVAW. It precipitated the largest demonstration that ever occurred in Washington – on Saturday, April 24, 1971. It gave impetus to the May Day demonstrations a week later, where over 10,000 demonstrators were arrested for fighting against the war. And it gave the American people a clear insight that the war in Vietnam was opposed by even those who fought it.



I couldn't be there in 1971 to return my medals, though I was working with the Chicago chapter of VVAW at the time. In 1991, VVAW rededicated the tree we planted on the Mall in 1971. At

that point, I decided to return my medals as well, but instead of tossing them on the mall, I decided to mail them to ex-VVAW member John Kerry, imploring him to speak out against the (first) Gulf War.

VVAW's actions are not tied to the past, they still reverberate to this day. Those individuals who were there, those who saw it televised, those who read about in the paper – are still influenced by our actions that week. We were successful in turning more people against the war. The results of Dewey Canyon III remind us of that fact that not only did we make history, we are still impacting history today.

All of us have changed over the past 45 years. Some of us have less hair and/or graying hair; or, we have put on a little weight; our eyes may not be as clear as they were in our twenties. But there are two constants; we won't forget what we did in Vietnam and we won't forget what we did – and are still doing – to fight against unjust wars and for veterans, peace and justice.

While VVAW does not endorse political candidates as a non-profit organization, we as war veterans certainly have an interest in not producing yet another generation of war veterans who will be shoved aside and ignored in all their basic needs when they come home. VVAW calls on you to get out and vote in the November elections. Our collective votes can ensure whether or not veterans' rights are a priority in our country, whether or not the VA will get the support it needs, and whether or not our country will wage another unjust war. We need your support.

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, whether it is through our free semi-annual newspaper, *The Veteran*, or fighting back against unjust wars waged in our name. **We thank all of you for your continued support.**

Sincerely,



Joe Miller
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.

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