



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear Friends,

On April 15, 1967, a small number of Vietnam veterans marched together in New York City during a huge anti-war protest, under a hastily-produced banner declaring them to be "Vietnam Veterans Against the War." That was the impetus for the eventual establishment of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) in June of 1967. Many of you know this story, and our stories, that have followed in the past 50 years. We survived our war and we stopped it. We fought for our country. We saved lives. VVAW still fights for peace, justice, and the rights of all veterans. That fight never ends. We cannot stop now as we mark our 50th anniversary this month. **We need your support now more than ever as we resist the domestic and foreign injustices of the new administration.**

America is under threat from a massive right-wing, necon cabal. The greedy rich parasites that sent us to war for their profit are making an all out attack on all social services, including Medicare and the VA. They see mega profits from "privatizing" the VA, splitting off its profitable parts and selling them to the highest bidders. The hapless veterans who will be victimized are just so much profit fodder, just as the lives of the GIs who will be killed and maimed in the chaos of new wars are just so much cannon fodder. The similarities to the Nixon era are downright alarming. We resisted and organized against Tricky Dick, and we succeeded. Now, everything that we fought for over the last fifty years is in jeopardy. But, we learned from the Nixon era. We will not let the chaos around the con-man-in-charge distract us from the very real juggernaut that is behind him. We have made progress in the face of such hatred, selfishness and evil before. We fought against the Gulf War and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. We organized campaigns to improve veterans' benefits through the "War on the VA." We gained recognition for Agent Orange and for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Now is not the time to rest, just yet. We must keep up the struggle to ensure our work over the last fifty years is not decimated by the new administration.

Our words still matter. Our stories still matter. Our actions still matter. I'm not sure about you, but I never thought we'd be the old guys. I never thought we'd be seen like how we saw the Abraham Lincoln Brigade survivors. But our lives, and our deaths, tell our story. Fifty years later, we are still bearing witness and many of the issues we fought for still exist today. While we won recognition for PTSD, our brothers and sisters who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan are still fighting for proper recognition. Sixty percent of our brothers and sisters who were recently discharged for misconduct actually had diagnoses for PTSD, traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), or other related conditions. These wrongful discharges resulted in our brothers and sisters losing their deserved and much-needed benefits. At the same time, the

House voted to strip health insurance away from 24 million Americans, including hundreds of thousands of veterans and their families (the bill now faces the Senate). Speaker Ryan has his eyes set on destroying Medicare next. **We need your help to protect our brothers and sisters, both from our generation and from the newest generation of veterans.**

In honor of VVAW's 50th anniversary, we encourage you to check out our regional events coming up this fall. You can find more information, and RSVP, online at: www.vvaw.org/events/. If you can't attend one of the events, show your support for VVAW with a purchase of a t-shirt, button, bumper sticker and more from our online store: www.vvaw.org/store/. You can also set up monthly recurring tax-deductible donations there as well.

Please take action on the issues most important to you. We know the importance of persistent collective action. Tell your story, tell our story. Join us. You can share your experiences by joining our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/vvawinc). You can write articles for *The Veteran*, VVAW's free semi-annual newspaper. Send your submissions to vvaw@vvaw.org. Write letters to the editor to your local newspaper. Call your legislators (Congressional switchboard is 202-224-3121). Participate and march in local and national events. We need all of us, all of you, to take action, in whatever ways you are able.

In these difficult 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; pass out copies to your family and friends, to your local library, or your local VA. Your donations also keep our website going, where we have 48 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. **We thank all of you for your continued support.**

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.

Name (print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail Address (please print clearly) _____

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