



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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"Pray for the dead, and fight like hell for the living." - Mother Jones

Dear Friends,

Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) was founded in 1967 by returning Vietnam veterans who joined together to organize as part of the opposition to the Vietnam War. We took up the struggle to fight for peace, justice, and the rights of all veterans. As we come together to celebrate our 50th anniversary this year, we must also come together to confront the rise of tyranny under Trump's rule. **We need your support now more than ever to fight against injustice and the swelling tide of oppression.**

The day after Trump was inaugurated, people turned out in massive numbers at Women's Marches across the country and across the globe. The Women's March in DC had three times the people that attended the inauguration the day before. VVAW members across the country joined in solidarity at the events, as marchers and volunteers. VVAW stands in solidarity with our fellow servicewomen, our sisters, our mothers, our wives, our daughters, and our friends. We stand in solidarity with all those in fear and whose rights are in danger. We stand in solidarity with Syrian refugees and immigrants. We stand against torture.

Within Trump's first week in office, he issued Executive Orders to threaten the health care of millions, to build a wall along the Mexican border (that we'll pay for), and to ban immigration from seven largely Muslim countries. Trump stands against everything we stand for. While the marches and events organized against Trump's policies have had overwhelming numbers, reminiscent of the civil rights movement and the anti-Vietnam War movement, we must maintain this pressure every single day until he is out of office. We must do more than comment on social media and take action online. Call your legislators (Congressional switchboard is 202-224-3121). Contact Trump. He may have shut down the White House comment line and made the White House petitions effectively useless, but we can reach him at his hotels, his businesses, and by boycotting the businesses who support him.

America is under threat. We have been here before with Tricky Dick. We resisted and organized and we succeeded. We made progress in the face of such hatred, selfishness, and evil. We challenged the ruling class on single-type discharges, amnesty for war resisters, and Agent Orange. 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). We may not be able to lead the organizing fifty years later, but we can take action in whatever ways we are able. We can lend our expertise in organizing and campaign building. **We can help build a grassroots movement. But we need your support.**

According to the new White House website and Trump's statements thus far, our "Commander in Chief," who never served a day in his life, plans to rebuild the military and reform the VA. Trump is pushing for military growth and action. We can't create another generation of veterans as Trump calls for aggressive military operations against ISIS and antagonizes Iran and China. We must be ready to mobilize against his ignorance, his temper tantrums, and his war-mongering. We must struggle against Trump carrying out atrocities in our name and creating a new generation of veterans. We must also fight like hell to protect the VA and veteran benefits. We must make sure that Trump's VA "reform" does not mean privatization. We need to make it stronger and for it to be able to handle the capacity of veterans already in need. **We must have a voice in what happens to the VA, not some idiot who has never served.**

Unfortunately, we are not just fighting against Trump. We must organize against the majorities in the US House and Senate, who want to gut all health care programs (except their own) including Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act (which covers many vets), and the VA. Every day seems to bring a new attack. Every day we must fight back. In honor of VVAW's 50th anniversary, please support our work with a tax-deductible contribution. We will be having a couple of regional gatherings later this year. Details are still being worked out. Don't hesitate to take action on the issues most important to you. Not just one, but every day. We know the importance of persistent collective action.

In these hard 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 47 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,

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.

Name (print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail Address (please print clearly) _____

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