



# VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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Dear Friends,

As you read this, many of the issues we have devoted our lives to are under constant attack by the Trump administration. Who knows what will be the new focus of his childish Twitter tirade on the day you receive this. Will he be trying to take away health insurance from millions of Americans, attacking immigrants through "travel" bans and building walls, kicking transgender members out of the military, or trying to privatize the VA? We must do what we can to fight back. **As we continue to celebrate our 50th year, we are constantly reminded of why we came into existence and why we are still here. We need your support.**

Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) was the **first** veteran's group organized to oppose its war **while** it was still happening. VVAW is the **only** anti-war veteran's organization still around from the time of our war. Because of the power of our voices and our movement, we were attacked. The government infiltrated us. We were one of the most heavily targeted organizations. We survived that. We survived attempted takeovers by sectarian organizations. We survived attempts at armed takeovers of our National Office. We persevered.

We were there **after** the war ended; we continued the fight for veteran's rights and fought back against unjust wars. We were there in the 1980s, 1990s, 2000s and the current decade. We lost many of our brothers and sisters along the way. Many died from direct after-effects of the war, like Agent Orange exposure and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Others succumbed to the perils of trying to exist in the working class, while others just from the passage of time. **But, we are still here and our role is just as important as ever.**

Ken Burn's new documentary, *The Vietnam War*, proves that the issue of the American war on the Vietnamese still hangs over our country. Our voices are still crucial to this debate. We encourage you check out the *The Vietnam War* when it premieres Sunday, September 17, 2017 on a PBS station near you (<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-vietnam-war/home/>). Check with your local PBS station to see if they are having local events that you can participate in. VVAW's voice is still important. The VVAW FaceBook page ([www.facebook.com/groups/vvawinc/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/vvawinc/)) is a great place to post your comments on this series.

**VVAW is also gearing up to commemorate our 50th anniversary.** Hopefully you can join us for our two regional events, in Milwaukee on September 10, 2017, and in New York on September 16, 2017. You can get more information and RSVP at: [www.vvaw.org/events/](http://www.vvaw.org/events/). If you can't attend one of the events, you can leave your memories of VVAW, and how we have impacted your lives using our online guestbook: [www.vvaw.org/50thguestbook/](http://www.vvaw.org/50thguestbook/).

You can 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/](http://www.vvaw.org/store/). You can also set up monthly recurring tax-deductible donations there as well. Don't be fooled by other events or fundraising activities – they are not associated or endorsed by VVAW.

As we are scattered across the country, and around the world, nothing marking our anniversary can be comprehensive. We were everywhere and we know many stories are left out, but we hope you will share this with your family, friends, sons, daughters, grandchildren. We hope that the lessons of VVAW will ring out to current and future generations. We must resist. We must fight back. We must struggle for a better world and not give in to the calls for self-interest and greed that are out there. **Please join us.**

**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 writing articles for *The Veteran*, VVAW's free semi-annual newspaper. Send your submissions to [vvaw@vvaw.org](mailto: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 every issue of VVAW's newspaper online, a 50th Anniversary Guestbook, as well as archives of 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 and a united voice 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](http://www.vvaw.org).

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_