



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

PO Box 355, Champaign, IL 61824-0355 (773) 569-3520

www.vvaw.org

vvaw@vvaw.org

March 2018

Dear Friends,

1968 was a turning point both in the Vietnam war and at home on several fronts. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive. While General Westmoreland tried to claim that the Tet Offensive was a US "victory," the battle made 1968 the bloodiest year in the Vietnam war. The cost in lives and more importantly, US prestige suddenly loomed impossibly large. The war persisted for another seven years leading to further casualties. President Johnson stopped calling for the escalation of troops and began seeking negotiations. Many of Vietnam Veterans Against the War's (VVAW) members remember the truth about the Tet Offensive and not the whitewashed version of history that Westmoreland tried to push. How hollow the blathering about "we won every battle" sounded to those who were "in the shit"! How many died because of Westmoreland's lies? As VVAW marks more than 50 years of organizing for peace, justice, and the rights of all veterans, we stand to remember the truths of the war and to share our stories. **Please consider supporting VVAW and our legacy with a tax-deductible contribution.**

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who began speaking out against the war in Vietnam a year before his death with a speech at Riverside Church in New York City on April 4, 1967. Dr. King's speech and his assassination one year later to the day of his Riverside speech helped to further galvanize people across the country to stand up against the war. At the Democratic National Convention, later that year in Chicago, VVAW members joined anti-war protesters in one of the largest anti-war events against the Vietnam war. Mayor Daley's panicked and cowardly response with an armed force of police and National Guard units ignited the flames of further protest.

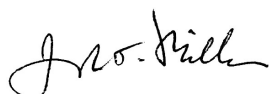
Veterans are taking a stand to prevent President Trump's efforts to privatize the VA. Members of VVAW and Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) have joined forces with public sector unions to organize for the VA workers and for a stronger VA system to serve our veterans. IVAW member Aaron Hughes said: "There are real problems at the VA and the administration tries to pit the VA workers and veterans against each other in order to advance a privatization agenda. While there are problems, we understand the VA saves lives and we can solve these problems by working with unions and supporting workers' rights and safe staff levels, not through privatizing the VA." Join the struggle to protect and strengthen the VA by calling your legislators (Congressional switchboard is 202-224-3121).

Even though VVAW's 50th anniversary has passed, there is still time to participate in some of the commemorations. Check out our latest publication, "VVAW: 50 Years of

Struggle." It is available for purchase at our online store: www.vvaw.org/store/. You can also show your support for VVAW with a purchase of a t-shirt, button, bumper sticker and more. You can still leave your memories of VVAW, and how we have impacted your lives, using our online guestbook: www.vvaw.org/50thguestbook/.

Please join us. We hope that the lessons of VVAW will resonant with current and future generations. We know the importance of persistent collective action. Write letters to the editor to your local newspaper. Get out and vote this year in a critical election year. Call your legislators. 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. You can also share your experiences with the VA by writing articles for *The Veteran*, VVAW's free semi-annual newspaper. Send your submissions to vvaw@vvaw.org. You can help the VVAW Archive Project by contributing photos to the project. We are currently seeking photos of national VVAW demos, in particular, Operation RAW, the Winter Soldier Investigation, Dewey Canyon III, the 1972 Republican & Democratic Conventions, and the War on the VA. Please contact us at vvaw@vvaw.org with more information if you have photos from VVAW national demos. You can view a sampling of the Archive Project online at www.vvaw.org/gallery/.

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. Please pass out copies to your family and friends, your local library, or your local VA. Your donations also keep our website going, where we have every issue of VVAW's newspaper online 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.**



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.

Name (print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail Address (please print clearly) _____

Phone _____