



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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"In light of the objectives of the organization, Cairo is of utmost importance in showing the American public that the war must end on all fronts. In many ways the black people of Cairo are suffering the same indignities as of the Vietnamese people. They are being economically exploited, socially ostracized, and politically denied a say in their destiny. Like the Vietnamese they have finally united against that power structure that has suppressed them and are fighting it. The racism which we saw in Vietnam and which many of us agree is one of the reasons for war crimes, exists in Cairo, Illinois."—Scott Moore, Lifeline to Cairo, The 1st Casualty, Volume 1, No.1, August 1971

Dear Friends,

The above quote is from the first issue of VVAW's first national publication, *The 1st Casualty*. *The 1st Casualty* became the *Winter Soldier* in 1973, and then *The Veteran* in 1975. 48 years later, VVAW is still producing a national publication, in print and online.

From issue one, VVAW was drawing the connections between our lives in the service and our lives in the movement for peace, justice, and veterans' rights. We brought to light issues that were ignored, or glossed over, by the mainstream media and the rest of the movement. We used our newspaper to share our perspectives as anti-war vets. We addressed issues that affected our lives.

One such issue VVAW worked on and featured in *The Veteran* was the issue of Agent Orange. Early on, we were aware of the dangers of the herbicides used in Vietnam. In the late 1970's we began focusing on the debilitating effects of Agent Orange – on those of us who fought and those we fought against.

"AGENT ORANGE—the newest outrage faced by Vietnam vets. The powerful defoliant was sprayed all over Vietnam, killing jungles, crops, unborn children—and caused deformities in kids whose mothers were hit by the spray."—The Veteran, Summer 1978, Volume 8, No. 2

No single individual is more responsible for exposing the dangers of Agent Orange to Vietnam veterans than Maude DeVictor. "I wasn't in Vietnam, although I'm a veteran," Maude said, "But I felt as though I've been there because I've interviewed so many fellows, so many wives, so many families." Maude first ran into Agent Orange (or, as she puts it, "Agent Orange ran into me.") in June of 1977. As her reward for serving veterans and their families, Maude was fired by the Veterans Administration in 1983.

VVAW supported Maude in her struggle, often when no one else would. Maude spoke at our events, rallies, anniversaries, meetings, and picket lines. Her voice was crucial in exposing the true effects of Agent Orange.

We are sad to report that after years of ill health, Maude passed away on Mothers Day, May 12,

2019. VVAW expresses its condolences to Maude's family. The VVAW family deeply feels this loss. Maude's passing reminds us what is still going on, and that despite many victories along the way, the work she started is not over. It is up to us and our friends and allies to continue the struggle she began.

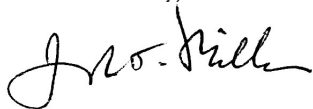
To this day, Vietnam vets are still dying from the effects of Agent Orange. Our children, and even grandchildren, are still affected by it. The Vietnamese, who suffered the brunt of the defoliation, are still being born suffering from the effects. We cannot forget. We cannot stop.

One of the reasons VVAW and *The Veteran* still exist is because we are still talking about issues that most people don't know about, or are trying to forget. VVAW is still making the connections. Our job is to make sure people don't forget.

By now, you should all have received the latest issue of *The Veteran*. The new issue features a story on our continuing fundraising to build a VVAW sponsored library for the children of Vietnam in the Bến Tre Province. We have an opportunity to leave a permanent marker to VVAW's role in reconciliation. We are on target to break ground in 2019 and hope to raise enough money throughout the rest of the year to complete the project by 2020. We hope you are as excited as we are about this project and donate what you can. Check out our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/vvawinc/) and the Fall 2019 issue of *The Veteran* for updates on the project.

We are deeply thankful when our members and supporters make tax-deductible donations to VVAW's work, at whatever level. Your contributions to VVAW help us keep distributing *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. Spend some time and search our website and explore our archives. Your donations allow us to make VVAW's legacy not only accessible to all through our website but also to archive them for generations to come. Your donation will also help us to build the library in Vietnam. We thank all of you for your continued support.

In solidarity,



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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