



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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"We members of the VVAW have seized the Statue of Liberty in opposition to the Memorial Day cutoff of the GI Bill which has made 3.7 million of our brothers ineligible, forcing thousands of us into the streets with no jobs to be found and no income to survive. We will not starve! Everywhere vets are mobilizing against these attacks. We are rising up not to beg but to demand that the GI Bill be extended and expanded . . ." - The Veteran, August/September 1976

Dear Friends,

June 8, 1976, 15 members of VVAW seized and held the Statue of Liberty for 18 hours to bring national attention to the struggles of vets.

In a precise and disciplined manner, VVAW members took control of the communications center, escorted out all visitors and park employees in a firm but polite manner and proceeded to secure the Statue and building. Assurances were given people that there would be no damage, violence or thefts.

After the lower floor entrances had been barricaded, VVAW hung two banners from the crown of the Statue: "Extend and Expand the GI Bill" and "We've Carried the Rich for Two Hundred Years—Let's Get Them Off Our Backs."

In 1971, VVAW also took over the Statue to oppose the continuing war in Indochina.



After 52 years of struggle, VVAW can no longer take on actions like these, though that does not mean the the fight for veterans, peace and justice is over. There are many ways to continue the struggle and shine a light on the injustices we have spent our lives fighting to correct. We will not give up. We will not forget our brothers and sisters who have done time in the service. We will not forget the Vietnamese people who we waged an unjust war on.

As you have read previously, VVAW is sponsoring a 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. Progress is being made, a project manager has been secured in Vietnam, and ground breaking should occur soon. Fundraising is ongoing as we plan 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 still doing what we can to make sure that the lessons of VVAW will resonate with current and future generations. You can do your part by sharing your stories of being in the service and the anti-war movement by writing articles for *The Veteran*, VVAW's free semi-annual newspaper. Send your submissions to vvaw@vvaw.org. The VVAW Archive Project is continuing to digitize and upload documents to our website. We have just uploaded all VVAW National Newsletters from 1973-1976, along with all VVAW Anniversary Booklets and VVAW fundraising letters. Check them out at www.vvaw.org/resources/downloads.php

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,



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.

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