



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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Dear Friends,

We can breathe a sigh of relief. The Chump in the White House has been defeated. As we write this, he still has not conceded, making the transition even that much more difficult. However, we cannot sit back and hope that everything that's been broken over the past 4 years will be fixed. We have no delusions that our job is over. We shall not stop working for veterans' rights, peace and social justice at home and abroad. We've got to keep President-elect Biden's feet to the fire! No matter who sits in the Oval Office or which party dominates Congress, the veterans' movement will cut them no slack.

We need to pressure Biden to clear the rot out of the VA and roll back the privatization. We have seen the importance of healthcare, especially in these pandemic times. We have witnessed how even crippled, the VA has kept on providing service to those of us who rely on it. Under new leadership and with enough pressure, we know this system can be improved.

Along those lines, we need to call for a frank and open disclosure of the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in the military. The more we learn about the ways to combat this virus, the more we know that mask wearing and social distancing are keys to stopping the spread. The behavior of the brass on bases and ships has bordered on criminal. Our brothers and sisters in uniform are not immune to the virus. Once again, we see those in uniform as pawns of those in power.

What better way to fight the spread of the pandemic than to bring our brothers and sisters home from the Forever Wars and deployments across the globe? The mishandling of the battle against this disease has highlighted the greed and callousness of the rich who are pursuing profit and power with the lives of our comrades, while showing utter contempt for the those who must suffer the gruesome consequences of underfunding, neglect, and sheer lunatic policies at home. We need to bring our military and the billions spent on the Forever Wars home now!

We need to call for a massive reduction and redirection of military funding. Let's use the military infrastructure to help disseminate a potential vaccine and not to aid and abet the criminal actions of the outgoing, disgraced administration.

We call upon all members and supporters of VVAW to join with us to keep on fighting for peace and social justice. The lives of our brothers and sisters in uniform and those of oppressed peoples around the world depend upon our continued struggle. There can be no honeymoon period for the new administration!

1971 was a watershed year for VVAW. Our struggles intensified, our ranks grew, and our resistance increased. Some of our most iconic actions took place that year: the Winter Soldier Investigation, Dewey Canyon III, Operation Peace on Earth, and more.



Dewey Canyon III.

VVAW is collecting the stories, photos, and videos of 1971 in an easy-to-access location on our website. We would like you to add your stories, for publication on our website and possibly in *The Veteran* as well. To leave your memories and view our collection, go to: www.vvaw.org/1971_50years/

Especially during this time, don't forget your friends and comrades in the struggle. Everyone who can needs to reach out and give a call or email or zoom or whatever. We can't let this current period push any of our friends over the edge. Let's make ourselves available!

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. 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 to archive them for generations to come. 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.

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