



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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"Vets everywhere are saying enough! Unemployment among Vietnam-era vets is higher than the national average. Many of us have turned to school to stay alive. Others are going to school to improve what job skills they have or gain more education in hopes of a better job. Today, VVAW is turning its attention nationally to this attack on the GI Bill. Veterans everywhere, from all eras, have to build that unity which makes us a national fighting veterans movement. With that unity we will be able to stand up and meet all attacks on veterans, like the current attack on the GI Bill. We have to fight for what we need we're not going to let the rich take it back from us—little by little, or all at once!" – VVAW, *The Veteran*, March-April 1976

Dear Friends,

The struggle for justice and the health and welfare of all gets more difficult with each passing day. Every day brings a new outrage and slap in the face to GI's, veterans and their allies. While we all struggle to survive the pandemic and make sure our brothers and sisters are safe, the current administration once again shows its total lack of empathy.

As we write this, the Chump in the White House is threatening to cut the National Guard's pandemic response deployment at 89 days. He knows that after 90 days, the Guard who is helping out on the front lines will be eligible for federal retirement and education benefits under the post-9/11 GI bill. At least one of the more than 40,000 National Guard members deployed to states to help in coronavirus relief said he's tired of the administration treating them like dogshit. We couldn't agree more. The struggles we engaged in during the 70s are the struggles of today. It's not too late to stop this travesty. Contact your representatives in Congress today.

Those of us who use the VA or are living in VA facilities are already at high risk during this pandemic. What we don't need is an administration that uses us like guinea pigs, steals from us, and threatens to shut down our health care. Vets cannot be used as test subjects for Chump's monomaniacal focus on an unproven drug. The Department of Veterans Affairs said that it will not halt the use of Chump's favorite unproven malaria drug on veterans with COVID-19. As of this writing, 11,883 veterans had been confirmed to be infected with the virus and 985 have died. Chump and crew—we are not here to be your lab rats.

We know so many of the VA frontline workers are putting their lives on the line to treat us and make sure we are all safe. To add insult to injury, it turns out the Chump administration redirected a shipment to the VA of over 5 million masks to the national stockpile. Our health care workers were forced to work with inadequate protective equipment. Stop this madness, the administration must make sure our frontline workers are protected, not robbed.

We know that if the VA were not under attack and fully staffed and funded, it could not only take care of us, but lead the battle against this pandemic—and the next one. Revitalizing the VA through

a repeal of most of the MISSION Act and other privatizing legislation should be a top priority for lawmakers moving forward. Speak out. Help save the VA!

This current administration and the pandemic we are living through highlights the fact that we are a global entity that must work together. Stop the wars. Stop the sanctions. Remove the current administration. We can change things, for the better.

No matter what some of us have felt over the past five decades, the current administration proves that elections matter. We cannot let the pandemic halt or hinder the elections! We already know some states are purging voters and elections are being postponed or canceled. We must push for early and mail-in voting for all states.

What can we do? We can't answer all these questions, but we do know that in 2020 we need to take action to remove Chump and his cronies from office. As a non-profit, we do not endorse candidates. But we can encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote, and vote out the warmakers, profiteers, and privatizers. We know that action does not begin or end at the ballot box. Without a real movement for social change, we've seen how easily votes can be stolen and decisions overturned. We must make sure the voices for veterans, peace, and justice are heard.

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. Make yourself 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. 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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