



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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

www.vvaw.org
vvaw@vvaw.org

March 2020

"As always, any war will be fought by the poor and disadvantaged. We have been there too many times before. We Vietnam veterans lived it during our war and during the war at home. We have fought for more than fifty years to end imperial and immoral and unjust wars. As long as the rich benefit from economic and political imperialism, the wars will keep happening. NO WAR WITH IRAN! BRING THE TROOPS HOME! END WAR PROFITEERING!!"r
—VVAW Board of Directors, January 2020

Dear Friends,

Since we last talked with you, many more dangerous things have happened to our country, most of them the direct result of the resident of the White House and his Senate enablers. Chump seems willing to take the US into another war, while continuing to disrespect the troops needed to fight those wars, then eroding the services they will need when coming back from those misadventures, and then targeting service members who dare expose his lies.

If it weren't for the relatively cooler heads of the Iranian government, who knows what kind of horrible conflict could have developed with Iran. It's amazing what levels Chump will sink to. After escalating tensions with Iran, he then mocks the soldiers suffering from TBI as a direct result of Iran's retaliatory missile strike from the foolish and misguided US drone strike.

Colonel Vindman came before Congress to offer honest testimony under oath, doing what he thought was the honorable thing for the country that he served and had shed blood for. He worked in the White House; he must have known the risk to his career that his honesty exposed him to. Perhaps he didn't understand how low his Commander in Chief would sink for revenge, attacking his brother as well as himself.

Meanwhile, the more than \$137 billion the US has spent implementing the 18-year "nation-building" effort in Afghanistan well exceeds, in today's dollars, what the US spent on the Marshall Plan to help rebuild 16 Western European nations after World War II.

Nearly one out of ten of the approximately 2,300 US service members who have been killed in Afghanistan died in reconstruction or stabilization-related missions, according to a recent report. These wars need to end now!

We need a change! What has become the status quo cannot remain. We know that 50 years ago, when Nixon's secret bombing of Cambodia was exposed, the nation erupted in protest. The tragic murders at Kent and Jackson State during those protests pushed the anti-war movement to even higher levels and helped hasten that wars' end.

Unfortunately, the number and extent of the current bombings, occupations, incursions, and wars has numbed the general populace. While we may be too old, sick, or tired to wage the lengthy

street battles we once did, we can still find one of the many ways to exercise our power - to vote this regime and its enablers out of office.

The right to vote is arguably the 21st century's civil rights issue. As states seek to limit voter turnout through voter ID laws, other states are seeking to limit early voting by reducing the time period in which someone could vote early.

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 not silenced.

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 in 2020. Check out our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/vvawinc/) 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,



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.

Name (print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail Address (please print clearly) _____

Phone _____