



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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

www.vvaw.org

vvaw@vvaw.org

September 2021

Dear Friends,

Long ago, VVAW learned that those in power would never give in to our calls for justice unless they were forced to do so. By the power of our presence and the pressure we applied, we saw the cracks appearing in their control. Our historic actions in 1971 and beyond had a major impact in weakening the Nixon administration's war in Vietnam and at home. We learned then that progressive movements for change must apply pressure to our elected officials if we ever hope to see change. That lesson is no less true today than it was 50 years ago.

We had high hopes for the Biden administration, maybe too high. The administration has only been in office for around 7 months, but already it is clear that in the struggle for justice, organizing always needs to play a role. We are looking at increases in military spending, and bellicose posturing towards China. This inflammatory rhetoric towards external "threats" contrasts starkly with the foot-dragging odyssey of "bipartisanship" with the GOP and the languid prosecution of Trump and the insurrectionist GOP. We need to push President Biden and all in Congress to combat this menace and institute changes that benefit the people, not just the 1%.

As the pandemic grinds on and as the fascist threat continues to rise, we know we cannot rest, no matter how weary we might be. The fascists and their allies cannot be allowed to steal our voting rights. They cannot be allowed to continue resisting any and all efforts to quell the pandemic. They cannot be allowed to steal our VA.

We have hope when we see leaders like Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO) and other elected officials sleeping on the Capitol steps to fight for the extension of the eviction moratorium. Her victory is a victory for all of us who are at the mercy of our landlords. We know that this kind of pressure is what is needed and necessary if we hope to make change. We need to support those progressive politicians fighting for concrete improvements in peoples' lives, especially before 2022. The fascists and their allies cannot be allowed to take over.

We must stop the Republicans continued push for VA privatization. We must pressure our elected officials and let them know these voices of privatization are not ours: hands off our VA!

We also strongly oppose Rep. Brian Mast's (R-FL) push for the military to stage a hostile takeover and run VA hospitals. We find it disgusting to think that generals can successfully run the VA, when time and again we have seen them demonstrate their arrogance, contempt for human life, and outright incompetence. Keep the generals away from the leadership of the VA! The VA runs best under civilian leadership. The VA matters to us. Improve it, don't privatize it!

The VVAW Library Learning Center in Vietnam has broken ground! After many pandemic delays, the dedication took place on July 22, 2021 and construction began on August 12, 2021.



Groundbreaking at the VVAW Library in Quang Ngai, Vietnam, July 22, 2021.

The library will be located next to the Pho Thanh School in Quang Ngai, about 30 minutes south of My Lai/Son My. Thanks to the Library of Vietnam Project for their persistence and the donors who supported this project!

Don't forget your friends and comrades in the struggle. Everyone who can should reach out and make 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,

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.

Name (print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail Address (please print clearly) _____

Phone _____