



VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC

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Dear Friends,

VVAW is sad to announce that Barry Romo, a long-time leader of Vietnam Veterans Against the War and lifelong advocate for anti-war and veterans causes, passed on May 1, 2024.

Barry has been a friend and comrade most of my life. We started on our journey to get the US to stop its war on Vietnam in 1970, over 54 years ago.

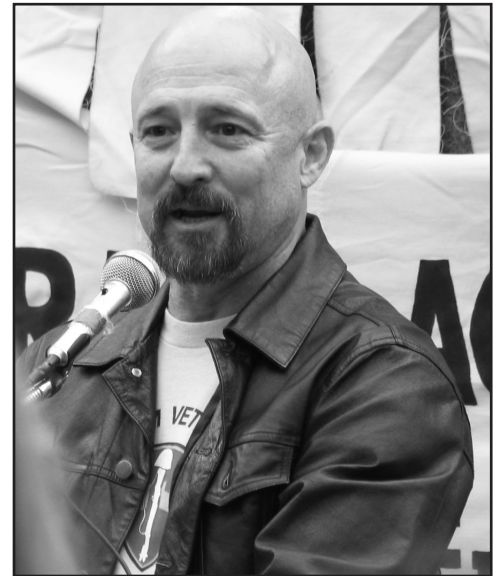
The Fall 2024 issue of VVAW's newspaper, *The Veteran*, will highlight the life and social justice work of Barry. You can leave a memory of Barry at the VVAW guestbook at www.vvaw.org/barryromoguestbook/

Barry's life changed when he enlisted in the Army to fight in Vietnam. He said he got a medal for saving eight lives in Vietnam, but all he remembered each night were the six lives he took.

Barry's life changed again when he joined VVAW. From testifying at the Winter Soldier Investigation and throwing his medals at the US Capitol at Dewey Canyon III in 1971, to his decades of leadership, Barry was a driving force in VVAW.

Barry wrote this in *The Veteran* in 1987, about his trip back to Vietnam in 1972, during what came to be known as Nixon's Christmas Bombing: "...Mr Quat, our host, had a discussion with me. He said that guilt was destructive, that as an emotion it had no place to go. It could not be built upon. He touched my heart when he said that guilt and hate would get me nowhere, that I had been used in the war, used by my own government and society, that then I had no choice. Now I did and I had made the correct one. Now I opposed the war, opposed the killing, opposed the destruction of the land and the countryside: that emotion—love—could be built upon. In closing, he said, you've seen the war from both sides, suffered with the Vietnamese people; later, during peace, I could share in their joy like no other."

Barry may have never found that peace, but he found comfort among comrades fighting for justice. Barry was passionate about social justice and would vigorously defend his positions. He also knew that the seriousness of the causes required laughter and partying as a release. He touched hundreds—if not thousands—of lives and left a lasting imprint on those he encountered. He often said it was in the movement, not the military, where he formed lifelong friendships.





Third VVAW library and learning center under construction.

Barry enthusiastically supported VVAW's recent efforts to build libraries in Vietnam. He felt we owed the Vietnamese people for the devastation our country wreaked upon theirs.

Construction is underway on the third VVAW sponsored Library and Learning Center in Vietnam. This one (pictured here) is at the An Nghia Middle School. The goal is to have construction completed this summer and have it ready for student use by the fall.

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. **Funds raised will also continue to support the Library of Vietnam Project.** We thank all of you for your continued support.

In Barry's memory, we hope you can contribute and help the children of Vietnam. Barry is missed already.

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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