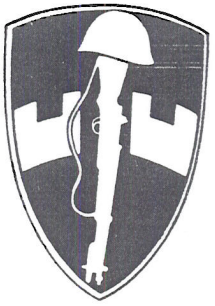


# VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR/ WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION, INC.



VVAW/WSO NATIONAL OFFICE

827 West Newport  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
Tel. (312) 935-2129

800 arms lost in battle,  
170 hands lost in battle,  
181 multiple amputations,  
500,000 Vets with less than honorable discharges,  
60,000 to 200,000 heroin addicts (depending on your source)  
46,092 dead by "hostile fire",  
10,317 dead by "non hostile causes",  
153,311 wounded in action,  
150,341 wounded outside of action  
4,500 legs lost in battle,  
23,214 vets 100% disabled,  
331,611 total of disabled vets and  
13,167 classified as 100% disabled for "mental reasons" by the V.A.,  
30% of all male federal prisoners are Vietnam era vets,  
200,000 war resisters are living underground,  
60,000 are living in exile,  
2 billion dollars to support the continued war,  
83,000 Vietnamese deaths since the supposed end of the war,  
57 G.I. rebellions in the last year against military op-  
pression and racism,  
hundreds of G.I.s in stockades for fighting back, and  
100,000 veterans have died since returning home.

Fall, 1974

Dear Friend:

We (and perhaps you or someone you know) supposedly fought in Vietnam for freedoms which we found under attack here at home. Thousands of our brothers returned in boxes. The rest of us, many with scarred minds and torn bodies, came home not to victory parades (rightly so) but to a ravaged constitution and a splintered society.

While we were in Indochina or some other military base, we had our well grained ideas of American justice and decency ripped away, pulled apart by the realities of genocide, racism and hatred. And when we returned to "civilian life", the horrors and injustices that plagued us in war reared ugly in our own back yards.

The facts boxed above speak for themselves and the actions that this organization has taken also speak for themselves. We threw back the medals

given to us in sham glory; we occupied the Statue of Liberty; we testified to atrocities like Mai Lai, that were common to the war; we went to the political conventions in 1972 to oppose any government that would continue the war; and finally, we went back to Washington D.C. this summer to dramatize and fight back against the continued injustice we and all Americans face today.

The July demonstration in Washington marked a new beginning for us in the fight towards real gains that can be made from the horror of Indochina. Please read the enclosed statement from the Congressional Record, as it clearly states the issues.

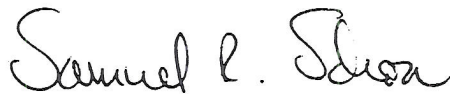
We have the right as Veterans of America's longest war, to demand that war resisters be given amnesty because they were right and we were wrong. We have the duty to demand that the U.S. government live up to it's part of the Paris Agreement concerning Vietnam. We have the honor of fighting for the benefits that the victims of the U.S. military have earned (as well as all Americans), and we have the obligation to see that the discriminatory military discharge be ended.

You are also Vietnam era veterans. You, as well as we, have had to endure the body counts, the lies and the horror of Indochina. You, as well as we, suffer from the scandals of our government, from the crisis of our economy, and from the deterioration of our social fabric. It is we who must put up the staunchest fight to force justice and humanity upon an unresponsive government. You have a personal stake in our struggles because when we are successful, you are successful. When we suffer losses, you suffer also. We urgently need your support.

When you see us in the street, when you see us at the V.A., when you hear of the attacks upon us like the Gainesville 8 trial of 1973, you will know that your support is not in vain.

Please help and share with us the sense of accomplishment as VVAW/WSO gains in numbers and effectiveness across the country and throughout the military.

In truth and freedom,



Samuel R. Schorr  
National Coordinator



VIETNAM VETERANS DEMONSTRATE IN WASHINGTON

HON. ROBERT W. KASTENMEIER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 1974

Mr. KASTENMEIER. Mr. Speaker, this past week the Vietnam Veterans Against the War-Winter Soldier Organization was in Washington to call attention to certain concerns of theirs. The organization, which has expanded to include nonveteran members, demonstrated in support of a number of demands growing out of the war in Indochina and continued U.S. presence there.

Since the Gulf of Tonkin resolution in August of 1964, 6.7 million men and women have spent time in the military; nearly 3 million of those in Indochina. Now that these men and women are back in civilian life, they are finding that this administration has little more regard for them than it had for the people of Indochina. Inadequate educational opportunities, poor medical benefits, less-than-honorable discharges and a lack of jobs are some of the problems facing the veterans today.

The GI bill educational allowances have always been a great help to the returning veteran in securing the skills needed to get a good paying job. The Veterans' Administration gave single veterans from World War II \$75 per month in living allowances and paid up to \$500 in tuition and fees. That amount covered the costs of 89 percent of the private schools in the country at that time. Today, the single veteran gets a set sum of \$220 per month to cover living expenses and tuition.

Tuition at Harvard in 1948, for example, was \$525 for the academic year, just \$25 over the GI bill allowance. Today, the tuition at Harvard is \$3,200, which is \$1,220 over the allowance. Even at State schools the average cost is \$1,765. This leaves the veteran with a total of \$215 to feed and house himself or herself for 9 months.

The Veterans' Administration runs the largest health care program in the country, with 170 hospitals and a medical budget of more than \$3 billion a year. The VVAW-WSO has charged that while the VA has some model hospitals, most of them are understaffed and indifferent to the needs of patients. A recent Ralph Nader report concluded that the VA was "utterly incapable" of dealing with the Vietnam-era veteran because the VA is primarily geared toward providing care for the older chronically ill men.

The VVAW-WSO also denounces the VA for its inability to deal with the problems of Vietnam-era veterans, problems such as drug addiction and the psychological problems which come from fighting in an unpopular war. These problems are not considered "service-connected disabilities" according to the VA and therefore do not qualify the veteran for treatment. The Congress has a responsibility to look into these allegations.

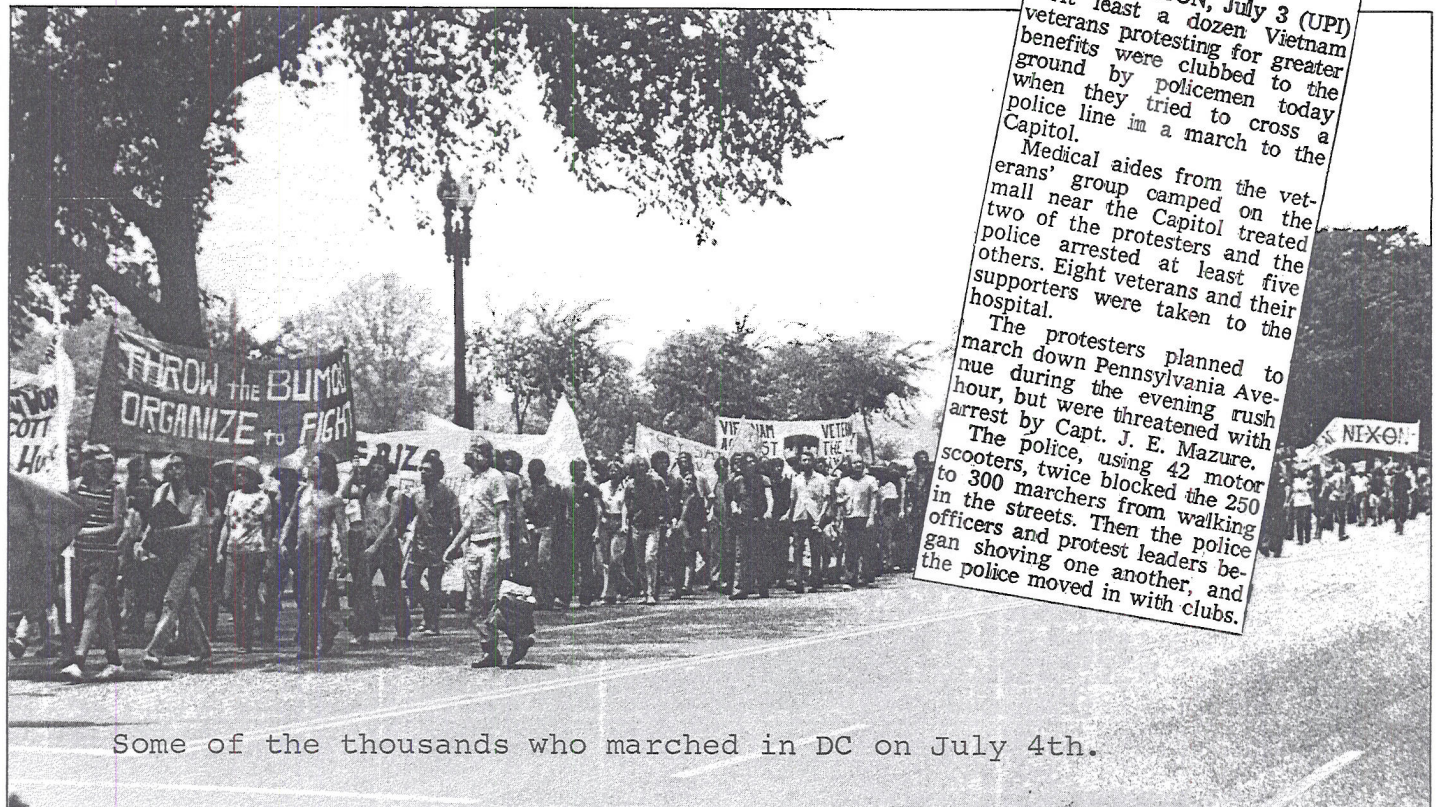
The Veterans' Administration manages the largest hospital system in the country and its almost 100,00 beds are an indication of what it can do. There is a ratio of 153 employees to 100 patients in VA hospitals nationally. By comparison, community hospitals average 292 employees to 100 patients and university hospitals have between 350 to 400 employees for 100 patients.

The discharge system presently used has become a major problem to many veterans today. There are five classifications of discharges: honorable, general, undesirable, bad conduct, and dishonorable. The first three are given administratively; there is no trial or hearing. The last two require a court martial. The use of discharges other than honorable compound the problems already facing the veterans. A less-than-honorable discharge can brand a veteran for life, severely limiting job opportunities and Government benefits.

The veterans also voiced a strong concern, which I share, regarding our continued prolongation of the Vietnam war by proxy. During the past year, the United States has provided more than \$1 billion in aid to the corrupt governments of South Vietnamese President Thieu and Lon Nol of Cambodia.

The war in Indochina tore this country apart for 10 years and these veterans show that we have yet to heal all of the wounds caused by that war.

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War-Winter Soldier Organization is an important organization and I feel that it is the responsibility of all Members of Congress to listen to these people and to try to understand their dissatisfaction. I welcome their efforts in the Nation's Capitol.



Some of the thousands who marched in DC on July 4th.

NY TIMES - 7/4/74  
**VETERANS CLUBBED  
 IN CAPITAL PROTEST**  
 WASHINGTON, July 3 (UPI)—At least a dozen Vietnam veterans protesting for greater benefits were clubbed to the ground by policemen today when they tried to cross a police line in a march to the Capitol.  
 Medical aides from the veterans' group camped on the mall near the Capitol treated two of the protesters and the police arrested at least five others. Eight veterans and their supporters were taken to the hospital.  
 The protesters planned to march down Pennsylvania Avenue during the evening rush hour, but were threatened with arrest by Capt. J. E. Mazurek.  
 The police, using 42 motor scooters, twice blocked the 250 to 300 marchers from walking in the streets. Then the police officers and protest leaders began shoving one another, and the police moved in with clubs.



OUR GI WORK:

VVAW/WSO has two national GI offices, one in Dayton, Ohio, and the other in Chicago, Illinois. The office in Dayton is responsible for counseling GIs by mail, corresponding with new members or those that wish to join, supplying materials to GI chapters and obtaining legal help. The office in Chicago is responsible for contacting other groups or individuals doing GI work, producing a bi-monthly GI newsletter, person to person counseling when possible, and collecting information supplied by GIs on U.S. military involvement in Indochina and other places. These two offices are branches of the National Office, also in Chicago.

VETERANS AMNESTY WORK:

Our primary work around amnesty centers on the largest group in need of amnesty - the over 500,000 veterans with less than honorable discharges, stemming from resistance to the war or the military. Because the V.A. does not help veterans with less than honorable discharges and because the V.A. is failing to help most other vets, we are carrying our campaign for amnesty to the V.A. along with our demands for decent benefits. Along with militant actions, we have set up centers to help vets upgrade their discharges through the system, realizing that only 15% of the bad discharges are upgraded this way. The only real answer for these people is total unconditional amnesty, and a single type discharge for all veterans.

HOW WE WORK:

VVAW/WSO is organized into chapters of which we have 130 at present. This includes several chapters inside prison walls, on several military bases and in communities throughout the country. We believe that it is the people who have the problems that must organize themselves to fight back against those problems. For us that is mostly G.I.s and veterans, although we have open membership to anyone wishing to work on our programs and actions. We realize that we cannot be an alternative V.A. or have many different service programs. Our aim is to push the already existing institutions to effectively deal with the problems, they were created to solve, if that is possible. That means taking the \$13,000,000,000.00 (billion dollar) budget of the V.A. and making it work for the veterans.

WHAT YOUR DOLLARS ARE USED FOR:

Your contributions to VVAW/WSO go toward the operation of the National Office, which is responsible for producing literature, putting out our monthly National newspaper, coordinating the work of all the chapters, representing the interests of our members at national and international events and supplying the organization with all the necessary information and materials needed to achieve our goals. The national office is also responsible for funding all nationwide actions in demonstrations and coordinating national projects while also organizing leadership for events in fifty states. The office is staffed by six coordinators elected by the National Steering Committee. All six live together and keep the office open 24 hours a day. The National Office has a budget of \$5,000 per month.

Total salaries . . . . .	\$ 720.00
Travel . . . . .	800.00
Literature . . . . .	200.00
Phone. . . . .	400.00
Rent . . . . .	500.00
Utilities . . . . .	100.00
Supplies . . . . .	400.00
Postage . . . . .	800.00
Newspaper . . . . .	1,000.00
	<u>\$4,920.00</u>