



PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

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Mokie Porter
301-996-0901
mporter@vva.org

VVA to President Obama: Grant Health Care to All Veterans With PTSD

(Washington, DC)—“We, at Vietnam Veterans of America, continue to hold out hope that President Obama, in his final days as Commander-in-Chief, will not forget the thousands of veterans with PTSD who have been denied access to health care and treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs,” said John Rowan, National President of VVA. “As pardons are being issued to people who have been convicted of serious felonies, veterans who served their country in combat wait to be offered the same clemency.”

In November 2016, VVA published an open letter to President Obama and President-elect Trump, asking for coordination in a pardoning program to help veterans with PTSD who have been inappropriately issued less-than-honorable discharges and denied access to critical benefits. Veterans with PTSD and less-than-honorable discharges are more likely to be homeless, suffer from substance abuse, and ultimately, to die by suicide. Highlighted in this open letter is a legal opinion on Presidential Authority from [Yale Law School](http://www.yale.edu/lawlib) in a December 30th opinion editorial in *The New York Times* (https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/30/opinion/a-less-than-honorable-policy.html?_r=0). VVA has yet to hear from either the Obama White House or the Trump Transition Team.

“We hope that President Obama, in the final hours of his Presidency, will do right by his troops by helping bad-paper vets with PTSD,” said Rowan. “We cannot wait another four or eight years for an outgoing President to take action to help the most vulnerable veterans in the country.”

Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”

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