

SAMPLE GUEST EDITORIAL

Many Americans believe all Vietnam veterans injured in that war receive health care from VA hospitals. They would be surprised to learn that the VA denies health care and lost wage compensation to all those whose feet did not touch the ground; and that includes all Navy, Coast Guard and Fleet Marines who served in the offshore waters providing naval gunfire support, search and rescue, and carrier air strikes.

Even when these men have the same diseases and disabilities from Agent Orange-dioxin as the troops on land, they are not eligible for the same benefits, regardless that the rains washed much of the Agent Orange sprayed on the land out through the bays and into the sea.

These offshore veterans are currently dying in poverty because of medical bills that should have been covered by their VA benefits. They are dying without the dignity and respect they deserve as disabled veterans and casualties of war.

This is an issue the American public needs to know about so they can demand their Congressional representatives to support legislation currently before the House and Senate that would resolve this travesty. All Americans should be ashamed by how this government is treating veterans, from Vietnam to our current conflicts.

If they knew about all the shameful treatment our veterans receive (and don't receive) from the VA, they would demand immediate changes. I'm amazed it has gone on this long to the degree it has.

Only the American public can bring about the needed changes by contacting their Senators and Representatives and demanding they implement the change. Tell them to vote for S-1629 and HR-3612, The Agent Orange Equity Act of 2011, which will help solve the problems of the offshore Vietnam veterans while they are still alive.

Get more information or contact us at <http://www.BlueWaterNavy.org>. This is a serious issue that we are asking you to immediately support. Congressional contact information can be viewed and easily submitted at <http://www.capwiz.com/fra/home/>.