



VIETNAM VETERANS RELIEF FOUNDATION

A Project of AGENT ORANGE VICTIMS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

27 Washington Square, North
New York, New York 10011

10-year-old Kerry Ryan, who was born with 22 birth defects, was busily scribbling on several sheets of lined paper.

"What are you doing?" her father asked.

"I'm writing a book."

"A book? About what?"

"About Agent Orange and Vietnam. And how bad men sprayed you and hurt me."

Dear Friend:

Kerry's trying the only way she knows how to find a solution to her problem. And so are the children and families of 150,000 other Vietnam veterans.

Unfortunately, time is running out. And so are the personal finances of the Vietnam Veterans Relief Foundation (VVRF) volunteers, who are working day and night to help our war heroes and their children.

I'm Frank McCarthy, a Vietnam veteran and the volunteer president of VVRF. And when Michael Ryan first told me the story about his daughter, I cried. Not just for him or for Kerry, but for the families of all the other veterans who have faced similar problems ...

... families who believed that once their loved ones came home from Vietnam, everything would be right with the world. How could they have known that a chemical used in Vietnam would be responsible for the early deaths of their sons or husbands, or cause multiple deformities in children born to men who were exposed to this chemical?

Today, I'm doing the only humanitarian thing I can do to help terminally ill veterans and children like Kerry -- who we believe were victimized by Agent Orange (an herbicide containing the toxic chemical dioxin, which was used to defoliate the jungles in Vietnam) -- I'm writing you this personal letter to ask for your support.

In the last three years, I've devoted every minute of my life to VVRF. I sold my home and spent \$53,000 of my own money to help Vietnam veterans and their families, and to find an answer to the Agent Orange problem.

I've seen my buddies from Vietnam die horrible deaths, I've witnessed the cruel effects of dioxin on their children (like Kerry), and I've prayed for an answer.

The U.S. Government and the whole chemical industry is studying the Agent Orange problem to determine if, in fact, war heroes like Michael Ryan, who served in Vietnam during the period from 1961-1972, ran the high risk of their children being deformed. But the problem is that these studies could take as long as 25 years.

Paul Reutershan didn't have that long. He was the founder of VVRF. I met Paul in 1978. He was a Vietnam veteran, whose cancer was diagnosed

just two weeks before he was to marry his childhood sweetheart.

That's just about the time a news article in the local paper caught his eye. A VA benefits worker had drawn a correlation between Agent Orange and an unusually large number of cancer cases among Vietnam veterans.

Paul spent the rest of his life (which turned out to be less than a year) in a vital "search and rescue" mission. He warned other veterans, referred them to places where they could get medical assistance, and spent hours from his hospital bed counseling others.

By December 11, 1978, I had become Paul's right hand man and close friend. As he lay dying, Paul begged me to carry on his fight against Agent Orange, until every veteran's family had been informed, warned, and received help whenever they needed it.

Paul was just 28 years old when he died in 1978. But even now, there are nights when, after a long day of counseling and contacting other veterans, I can't sleep, because I keep hearing what Paul once said:

"I was killed in Vietnam and didn't even know it!"

Paul wasn't the only victim. Kerry and countless other children were maimed in Vietnam, too! And as many as 150,000 other veterans, who thought the war was over and came home to pick up the pieces of their lives again.

I used to think the nightmares about Vietnam were over, too -- that I no longer would have to watch my buddies get shot up, tortured or maimed.

But I was wrong. Dead wrong. There's a dioxin time-bomb alive and ticking in many of my fellow veterans -- like Charles Hertz and Steve Zardis, who called me the other night.

The doctors told Steve he'd be dead six months ago. He's spending his days carrying out our "search and rescue" mission because, he says:

"I feel as you do, Frank. If the men who served in Vietnam don't care, who will?"

I'm counting on you to join me in my volunteer efforts. We're non-profit. We receive no funding from any source. Our staff is made up of concerned wives, parents, grandparents, children, and dioxin-contaminated veterans who want to help the families that have been victimized by Agent Orange.

Medical facilities and treatment are available to the veterans through VA hospitals, but not to their children -- thousands of youngsters like Kerry who were born with multiple deformities that we are sure resulted from their fathers' exposure to Agent Orange. The physical, emotional and financial strain that their families have endured has been tremendous.

VVRF can't prove with scientific studies that Agent Orange is the killer and maimer of these men, women and children. But we do know some of the symptoms (see enclosed flyer). And we personally know a handful of doctors who can diagnose Agent Orange symptoms.

Other Vietnam veterans like myself have helped to recruit thousands of volunteers in our 24 field offices, headquartered throughout the United States, but because we don't have the necessary funds, we have had to close down several of these life-saving field offices.

We have made a difference, though. We've been able to locate, warn, and refer over 7,000 Vietnam war heroes like Paul Reutershan and Michael Ryan to medical facilities that understand about Agent Orange. And we've manned a hot-line for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, answering questions and providing information.

We've been able to prevent a number of suicides, too, because we were available to talk to veterans who were filled with despair and ready to give up.

But our personal finances are running out, our volunteer veterans are dying of cancerous diseases, and their children are suffering from wounds they received from a war they never fought in.

As Kerry's mother, Maureen, told me: "The Vietnam war will never be over for Kerry. She'll have to carry her wounds and afflictions, and face new battles all of her life." And so will many more children like Kerry.

We can't fight this battle alone. My personal finances are almost deplete and Michael and Maureen Ryan are faced with medical bills they'll probably never be able to pay. They can't afford to give any more. They can only hope to provide for the intensive therapy and care Kerry will need for the rest of her life.

That's why I'm writing to you today -- I need the help of concerned Americans like yourself to carry out what Paul Reutershan begged me to do.

You are our only hope to survive the fatal wounds we believe were caused by the toxic chemical, dioxin, which was used in Vietnam.

Please help me fund the life-saving work of the Vietnam Veterans Relief Foundation and help end the war for these men and their families. Right now, you can help by:

1. Filling in the names and addresses of any Vietnam Veterans you personally know who served in Southeast Asia from 1961-1972. I've enclosed a special "Medical Rescue Form" for this reason.
2. Sending a special tax-deductible gift of \$10, \$15, \$25, \$50, \$100 -- or whatever you can spare. Your gift will be contributing to our VVRF hotline to help veterans who need help now. And it will provide operating money for VVRF, as well as travel expenses and emergency funds for families like Kerry Ryan's until government and VA studies are completed.

3. Volunteering some of your time to help transport Vietnam veterans and their families to medical facilities for treatment, therapy, etc... Simply send us a note along with your donation and let us know how much time you could spend helping VVRF.

Singlehandedly, Paul Reutershan started the fight to get Agent Orange recognized by the Government and the VA ... but now the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars are all working toward that same goal. With that kind of strength behind us, Paul's dream will eventually become a reality.

In the meantime, though, VVRF is faced with a critical situation -- we must continue to provide life-saving emergency assistance to thousands of children like Kerry and to other dioxin-poisoned veterans like Paul. But we need your help to do it.

I know times are hard. I know the recession is hurting you as much as it is me. But if you can find it in your heart to send a gift of \$10, \$15, \$25, \$50, \$100 -- or whatever you can afford -- we can help these victims of Vietnam get through these very difficult times.

And I know God will reward you many times over.

Please think about what I've said, think about Kerry and thousands of children like her, think about Paul Reutershan, Charles Hartz and Steve Zardis, think about someone you know personally who fought in Vietnam.

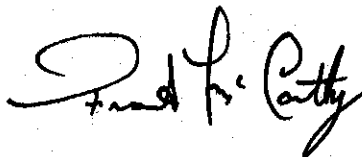
Any names you can provide on the enclosed VVRF "Medical Rescue Form" will be notified immediately about dioxin poisoning and sent a special medical questionnaire.

We'll do the follow-up and make sure these war heroes are referred to the proper medical specialists. And we'll use your dollars to help save their lives and the lives of their children the best way we can.

Please send your donation today. This dioxin time-bomb is in these young Vietnam veterans and it can kill them and their children at any given moment.

I speak for all of us when I say thank you for helping us to do something now for these Vietnam veterans and their families.

Sincerely,



Frank McCarthy, President
Vietnam Veterans Relief Foundation

P.S. Remember, time is running out for these men, women and children, so please send whatever you can today!



Paul Reutershan of Stamford, Connecticut, the founder of Agent Orange Victims International, was only 28 years old when he died on December 14, 1978. He was convinced that Agent Orange was to blame for his terminal cancer.



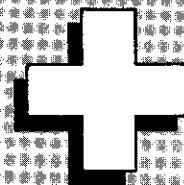
Kerry Ryan, the only child of Michael and Maureen Ryan, was born with 22 serious defects—including an underdeveloped lower spine; no rectum; malformed right arm and hand; serious heart condition; duplicate reproductive organs; neurological damage; neurogenic bladder; embolism.



Jennifer Loney was born with only part of her right arm. Her father, Dan, said he knew that she would be born with a birth defect. When his wife was four months pregnant, he received a letter from the VA listing 13 symptoms of Agent Orange. He was already being treated for 9 of them. The last one listed in the letter was birth defects.

MEDICAL RESCUE FORM

If you know any Vietnam veterans who served in Southeast Asia between 1961 and 1972, please list their names and addresses below. Thank you!



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Charlie Hartz was a soldier's soldier. For two years (1966 and 1967), he jumped out of helicopters all over Vietnam, roaming through its jungles, seeking out and confronting the enemy. He was wounded twice. He received two purple hearts and three bronze stars. But Charlie's real enemy was Agent Orange. He believes that his prolonged exposure to this dioxin-contaminated defoliant is responsible for his terminal brain cancer—and the birth defects of three of his children.

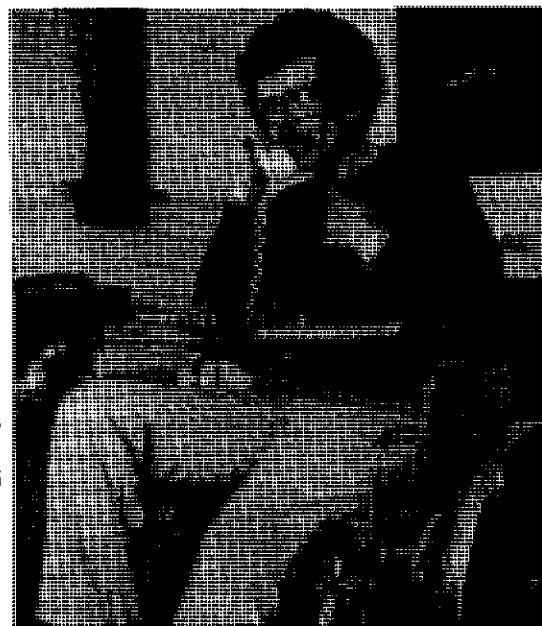


Jimmy and Roberta Lutz (shown above with Frank McCarthy) know first-hand what Agent Orange can do to a Vietnam veteran and his family. Jimmy has been in poor health since he returned from Vietnam and three of his four children have severe birth defects.

YOU CAN HELP!

THE VIETNAM WAR STILL
ISN'T OVER . . . FOR
AGENT ORANGE VICTIMS

Steve Zardis served in Vietnam in 1968-69 and was frequently exposed to Agent Orange. Today, at age 34, he is confined to a wheelchair, physically "devastated," according to one of his doctors. Steve has an illness that resembles and has been diagnosed as multiple sclerosis. He believes it is related to his exposure to Agent Orange.



YOUR DOLLARS CAN'T RESTORE THEIR HEALTH, BUT THEY CAN HELP EASE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN AND PROVIDE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR AGENT ORANGE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES.