

26 February 2026

Dear President Trump,

We are veterans and organizations representing veterans, and we are deeply concerned with rising tensions drawing the United States into yet another forever war. Whether it's the prospect of another war of choice with Iran, or Cuba, or an expanded military campaign in Venezuela, escalating these conflicts threatens to drain our resources, destabilize regions, and cost American lives. Instead, there is a clear opportunity for your administration to pursue groundbreaking diplomacy that would make the world safer for Americans.

These governments have poor human rights records and some interests that diverge from those of the United States. But the past 25 years have made one thing clear: the U.S. military is not an effective tool for regime change and these wars create long-term instability and drain resources away from urgent needs at home, including veterans' welfare. We have seen this pattern before: escalatory strikes without congressional approval, vague threats of regime change, and military actions that invite retaliation and prolonged entanglement. The Iraq War cost thousands of American lives, left many more wounded, and helped give rise to ISIS. Afghanistan became a two-decade war that returned the Taliban to power. The same voices who championed those failures are now pushing for new interventions in new places with the same old script.

Iran has not recently attacked the United States or threatened an imminent strike, and a war with Iran would not be quick or surgical; it would likely become a costly, open-ended quagmire, and inflame the region. The legal basis for removing President Maduro was questionable at best, and there is little support for an expanded occupation of Venezuela. There is likewise no support for forced regime change in Cuba, which has not posed a threat to the U.S. homeland for at least two generations. Launching another war would put American service members in harm's way, strain our Armed Forces rather than strengthen them, and ignore the will of the American people, who consistently oppose wars of choice in polling.

We urge you to reject calls for regime change wars and instead prioritize sustained, serious diplomacy to address U.S. differences with these governments and reduce the risk of further conflict. Pursuing peace through strength requires wisdom, not perpetual conflict. For those who served, and for those still serving: No more forever wars.

Sincerely,

**Organizations:**

Common Defense  
IL Veterans for Change  
Lake Superior Veterans for Peace, Ch.80 Duluth MN - Superior WI  
New Hampshire Veterans For Peace  
PeaceWorks, Brunswick, Maine  
Quincy Institute Veterans in Foreign Policy Initiative  
Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 Gainesville FL  
Veterans for Peace, Pittsburgh #047  
Vietnam Veterans Against the War

**Individual Veterans:**

\*Individual veteran respondents were given the option to provide only their name, or to additionally include their rank at the time of separation or retirement, branch of service, and state.

Aaron Rosler, Air Force  
Adam Weinstein, Corporal, Marine Corps - NY  
Aleiyah Syed  
Alexander McCoy, Sergeant, Marine Corps - FL  
Anthony Buch, Navy- WA  
April Guardi, Army - NY  
Ash Wallis, Army - CO  
August Page, Petty Officer First Class, Navy - MD  
Barton Boyer, Corporal, Marine Corps - MN  
Bill Branson  
Bob Jones, Army - ME  
Bonnie Mary Gorman RN, Navy - MA  
Brian McElroy, Marine Corps - NY  
Carol Northrup, Colonel, Air Force - AZ  
Chris Hill, Lieutenant Colonel, Army - AZ  
Collin M. Ford, Sergeant, Army - VA  
Dana Briggs, Captain, Air Force - IL  
Daniel Fowler - OR  
Daniel Higgins, Seaman Recruit, Navy - MA  
Danny Tsoi  
David Larsen, Army - ME  
Deve Petri, Commander, Navy - NC  
Donald L Rush III, Sergeant, Marine Corps - MD  
Douglas A. Stuart, Specialist, Army - MA

Dud Hendrick, Captain, Air Force - ME  
Elizabeth (Liz) Blackmon, Army - FL  
Ellen Barfield - MD  
Eric Lewis, Marine Corps - WA  
George Clifford, Captain, Navy  
George Mosho - IL  
Ghanim Khalil - NY  
Greg Boertje-Obed  
Gregory A. Daddis, Colonel, Army - TX  
Heidi Dragneff, Hospital Corpsman Third Class, Navy - VA  
Jackie Saba, Coast Guard - NH  
Jeff Parente, Marine Corps - MA  
Jesse Gillis - NH  
Jesse Rojo - IL  
Jessica Motsing, Navy - IL  
Jim Anderson, Corporal, Marine Corps - NY  
John Pegg, Marine Corps - MN  
Josh Kolasch, Sergeant, Marine Corps - MN  
Justin Phillips, Captain, (no branch specified) - CT  
Kayla Maureen Williams, Army - VA  
Kelly Dougherty, Sergeant, Army National Guard - CO  
Kenneth Collins, Army - NJ  
Kevin Ryan, Marine Corps - IL  
Larecia Tucker, Army - IL  
Lawrence B. Wilkerson, Colonel, Army - VA  
Leann Deans, Navy - MD  
Connor Ehl, Lieutenant Junior Grade, Navy - MA  
Dennis Laich, Major General, Army - OH  
Marc Cryer, Army - ME  
Margaret Northrup - CT  
Matthew Hoh, Former Captain, Marine Corps - NC  
Meg Miner, Technical Sergeant, Air Force - IL  
Michael T. McPhearson, Army - WA  
Miguel M. Valente, Specialist, Illinois Army National Guard - IL  
Mike Caggiano, Private First Class, Army - CA  
Miles Lagoze, Marine Corps - CA  
Nicholas Walenga, Petty Officer Second Class, Navy  
Norman Herron, Specialist Fourth Class, Army  
Parker Northrup, Air Force - AZ  
Paul Dordal, Captain, Army - PA

Paul L. Atwood, Marine Corps - MA  
Peter Morgan, Coast Guard - ME  
Philip Anderson, Petty Officer First Class, US Navy  
Rachel Y, Air Force - MI  
Robert Gronko, Marine Corps - FL  
Rory Roberge, Lieutenant Commander, Navy - IL  
Ryan Baird, Master Sergeant, Army - WA  
Samuel Port, Captain, Army - VA  
Scott Belfry, Marine Corps - MN  
Scott Camil, Sergeant, Marine Corps - FL  
Scotty Miller, Marine Corps - OR  
Sean Horgan, Marine Corps - MA  
Seth Harp  
Steven J. Vose, Navy - IL  
Tamara Keller, Seaman, Navy - WI  
Terry Fitzgibbons, Navy - NJ  
Thomas W. Morgan, Navy - MN  
Tobey Phillips  
Tom Beauchamp, Army - TX  
Tom Mannion, Sergeant, Marine Corps - NH  
Travis Weiner, Army - NM  
Walt Denson, Navy - WA  
Wes Flierl, Army - NH  
Will Thomas, Navy - NH  
William Anderson, Navy - MN  
William H. Ellis, Lieutenant Junior Grade, Navy - MA