



**David Cline (January 8, 1947 – September 14, 2007)** was an American anti-war and veterans rights activist, best known as National President of Veterans For Peace (VFP) 2000-2006, Chapter Vice President of Alan Reilly - Gene Glazer VFP Chapter 21, and co-founder of the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign. Cline was featured in the 2006 film *Sir! No Sir!*, which documented the GI antiwar movement during the Vietnam war, and in the book *Winter Soldiers: An Oral History of Vietnam Veterans Against the War* by Richard Stacewicz.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Cline was drafted into the U.S. Army when he was 20 years old. He arrived in Vietnam in August 1967 and served in the 25th Infantry Division as a rifleman and machine gunner. He was wounded three times, the third time seriously enough to be sent back to the army hospital at Fort Dix, New Jersey in 1968. He was awarded three Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

Returning to Fort Hood, Texas, Cline became an anti-war activist, serving as a civilian organizer of active duty servicemen at one of the first GI coffeehouses, the Oleo Strut, in Killeen, Texas, and producing a one-sheet underground newspaper on politics and veterans issues called Fatigue Press, which was distributed clandestinely on the military base. He joined Vietnam Veterans Against the War in 1970, where he served as a coordinator and national director, and remained a member until his death.

While working for the U.S. Postal Service's Bulk Mail Facility in Jersey City, Cline became a steward in the American Postal Workers Union and one of the leaders of a wildcat strike in 1978. He later served as steward and vice president of Transportation Workers Union Local 600.

As President of VFP, Cline built a relationship between VFP and the fledgling organization of military families opposed to the war in Iraq, Military Families Speak Out! (MFSO) in 2002, and provided guidance to returning Iraq vets who founded Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) in 2004. He helped establish the Bring Them Home Now campaign and served on the campaign's coordinating committee until his death. In 2002, he organized the Veterans Support Vieques initiative to mobilize protest against the U.S. Navy's use of Vieques, Puerto Rico, as a bombing range. He was also instrumental in planning "Walkin' To New Orleans," the 2006 march by veterans and survivors of Hurricane Katrina from Mobile, Alabama to New Orleans, Louisiana.

Adapted from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



## Legacies of War Remembering and Celebrating the Life of David Cline



February 16, 2013

1:30-4:30 pm: Connolly's Pub & Restaurant,  
121 West 45th Street New York, NY 10036

**Veterans returning home, reconciliation & remediation,  
dissent in the military, and the role of antiwar and peace  
veterans in the movement for peace and  
economic and social justice.**



[www.veteransforpeace.org](http://www.veteransforpeace.org) [www.vvaw.org](http://www.vvaw.org) [www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)

[www.vn-agentorange.org](http://www.vn-agentorange.org) [www.mfso.org](http://www.mfso.org)

As we enter a new era in the history of the American empire, we find ourselves on unfamiliar terrain. The role of the United States in the new century has already changed – and will change even more.



U.S. wars are changing too. The pipe dream of full spectrum dominance, the capacity to fight two major wars at the same time – even the fantasy of nation building – crashed and burned in the groves and alleys of Iraq and the gullies and ridges of Afghanistan. The new American way of war looks something like a video game where joy stick jockeys pilot faraway drones to take out people designated national security threats based on fluid and incomplete intelligence. Or a board game where proxy armies are mustered and sent into battle in the foolish hope that their commanders will learn from brutal civil war how to act like good Americans.

Veterans also change. Fewer Americans serve in the military. Recruit indoctrination is amped up with hallucinations of misogynist warrior culture to build group cohesion. Soldiers are sent to impossible assignments with inadequate resources and exposed to new and more deadly toxins. They return to a nation where entertainment masquerades as news, and government deadlocks on trivia while ignoring looming crises of economic inequality, environmental degradation, and climate change. Their hunger to find meaning in their experience is all too easily hijacked and misdirected by opportunist politicos with fascist inclinations.

We must re-examine the relationship of veterans to the movement for peace and social justice. What does the movement mean for veterans? What role should veterans play in the movement? How can we best use the intelligence and insight we have gained through our experiences to make our world a better place for ourselves, our families and friends? How do we continue to serve?



## Opening Remarks:

Event Chairs—Michael T. McPhearson & Susan Schnall

## Remembering David Cline: (*Family and Friend*)

Elena Schwolsky-Fitch, Sabrina Sergeant, Jaime Vasquez

## Cline Video Clip

## Overview of the Current Period: Jan Barry

## Entertainment: Randy Credico

## Veterans Returning Home:

Moderator: Michael T. McPhearson, Geoff Millard, Wendy McClinton - *Black Veterans for Social Justice*, Margaret Stevens

## Military Dissent:

Moderator: Brian Matarrese , Camilo Mejia, Frank Toner, Susan Schnall

## Entertainment: Ngô Thanh Nhàn

## Remediation/Reconciliation:

Le Hoai Trung - *Ambassador, Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United Nations* , Heather Bowser - *Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance*, Tom Fasy - *War related health crises in Iraqi cities*

## Entertainment: Stephen Said

## Cline Video Clip

## Role of Veterans in the Social Justice Movement:

Moderator: Ben Chitty, Greg Payton, Jerry Lembcke, Mike Reid

## A few words from friends to remember Cline

## Cadence and music