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## **Bring It On and Bring Them Home**

Play Script by David M. Boje, Ph.D.

**THEATRE FOR PEACE and JUSTICE: A PeaceAware Event**

Place: Klein Park, October 25, 2003

**Narrator:** The characters are veterans and the VA. They interact in these scenes to give you a comic and tragic look at how veterans get treated after the war is over. They are recruited with promises of education and job skill training. When they come back mentally or physically wounded, this play shows you how they are treated. It is done in Bertolt Brecht style, not as entertainment, but as provocative reflection.

### **Introduce Characters**

- Narrator (who give poetic cadence between scenes)
- World War II Veteran seeking benefits
- Vietnam War Veteran seeking benefits
- Iraq War Veteran seeking benefits
- VA Intake Counselor reluctant to give benefits
- VA Doctor eager to disqualify benefits

**NARRATOR:** We take a journey through the wars of time, beginning with WWII  
Scene 1 – Waiting Room of the VA Clinic in Las Cruces, New Mexico – Enter WWII Vet and VA Counselor

VA Counselor – What is it you want?

WWII Vet – I am here about the stress of WWII.

VA Counselor – Shouldn't you be dead by now?

WWII Vet – Right, I was exposed to so much Mustard Gas, I cannot feel my Ass;  
Mustard Gas is a Weapon of Mass Destruction

VA Counselor – I'll be the judge of that. Mustard Gas, as of October 25<sup>th</sup> is no longer covered by VA benefits

WWII Vet – I fought for this country; bombs were dropped on me, and Gas too.

VA Counselor (cutting him off) – Very brave! Here is a stack of appeal forms, fill them out, NEXT.

Exit WWII Vet (quite frustrated)

**NARRATOR** (recites cadence)

**BUSH SAYS “BRING E’M ON”**

**BUT HE’S NOT STANDIN’ NEAR THE BOMBS  
WITH SOLDIER’S LIVES HE SURE ACTS BRAVE  
BUT HE’S NOT STANDIN’ NEAR THEIR GRAVE**

I learned yesterday from listening to Democracy Now, President Bush has never attended a funeral for a U.S. soldier, not from Afghanistan, and not from Iraq.

**NARRATOR: A Vietnam Vet approaches the VA counter**

**Scene 2 – Waiting Room of the VA Clinic – Enter Vietnam Vet, approaches VA Counselor**

**VA Counselor – What is it you want?**

**Vietnam Vet – I have Agent Orange, Agent White, and Agent Blue too.**

**VA Counselor – I’ll be the judge of that. Where is your paperwork?**

**Vietnam Vet – Right here, I was in the Navy, and that dust drifted onto our boat in the MeeKong Delta**

**VA Counselor – Say, didn’t you come in here a year ago. I got same answer for you, the VA don’t treat anybody that did not step on Vietnam soil. Them’s the rules.**

**Vietnam Vet – But, I got Agent Orange, the doctor says I got it off the shore of VIET NAM.**

**VA Counselor – I’ll be the judge of that. It don’t matter what the doctor says, Congress says, if you don’t step on the soil of VIET NAM, you ain’t got Agent Orange. Being Off the SHORE, you do not Qualify.**

**Improv from here ...**

**Exit WWI Vet (quite frustrated)**

**NARRATOR (Recites Cadence)**

**HEY, HEY UNCLE SAM**

**WE REMEMBER VIET NAM**

**WE DON’T WANT YOUR IRAQ WAR**

**BRING OUR TROOPS BACK TO OUR SHORE**

**IF THEY TELL YOU TO GO**

**THERE IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW**

**THEY WAVE THE FLAG WHEN YOU ATTACK**

**WHEN YOU COME HOME THEY TURN THEIR BACK**

**NARRATOR – On October 24<sup>th</sup> (yesterday), President Bush Jr. issued an executive decree that when the bodies of U.S. service men and women return from the Iraq Theatre, the military bases and communities of the United States of America are prohibited from conducting Memorial Services.**

**NARRATOR** – We have seen the WWII vet return from the Big One, and the Vietnam Vet return from the Little One. Now, what do you think happens, when an Iraq War Vet returns with a physical or psychological scar? The number of Total U.S. Wounded as of Oct 25<sup>th</sup> (Today) is 1958. What is it like when an Iraq War Vet returns wounded and tries to see a VA doctor?

**Scene 3** – Waiting Room of the VA Clinic – Enter Iraq War Vet, approaches VA Counselor

**VA Counselor** – What is it you want?

**Iraq War Vet** – I have Iraq War Syndrome

**VA Counselor** – I’ll be the judge of that

**Iraq War Vet** – I had this treated in Baghdad George Bush II Hospital. I had to pay \$8 for each meal there. Are you going to reimburse me?

**VA Counselor** – We don’t reimburse for meal in Iraq. You got any paperwork?

**Iraq Vet** – No I been sitting in Fort Sullivan, waited 2 months, still did not see a doctor. When will I see a Doctor?

**VA Counselor** – Sit down and I will see if the Doctor can see you now (she picks up phone)

**VA Counselor** (speaking on phone to Doctor) – “Doctor, sorry, right, OK, no Vet can see you today.” (Hangs up phone) – Doctor, says no way, come back in Month of May.

**NARRATOR** (recites cadence)

**BUSH WANTED TO ATTACK  
SENT THE ARMY TO IRAQ  
GUNS AND TANKS AND BOMBS TO DROP  
ALL THIS MADNESS HAS TO STOP**

**BUSH AND CHENEY TALK THAT TALK  
BUT WE KNOW THEY’RE CHICKEN HAWKS  
IF BUSH AND CHENEY’S SO DAMN RIGHT  
LET BUSH AND CHENEY GO TO FIGHT)**

<b>TOTAL US wounded in Iraq since March 20<sup>th</sup>: 1958</b> <b>TOTAL US Fatalities in Iraq since March 20<sup>th</sup>: 347</b>
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Total deaths since July 2nd: <b>142</b> (Pres. Bush announces, "Bring Them On")
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Total deaths since July 22nd: <b>114</b> (the deaths of Odai & Qusai Hussein)
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Total Fatalities since May 1st: <b>208</b> March 20th through May 1st: 139
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Other Fatalities refers to 51 UK; 1 Danish; 2 Spanish; 1 Ukrainian</li><li>• <b>Grand Total 347 US &amp; 55 Other = 402</b></li></ul> |
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Source: <http://lunaville.org/warcasualties/Summary.aspx>

**NARRATOR – What is it like when the Doctor examines the Iraq War Vet? It has been months of paperwork, waiting, returning again and again, and today the Iraq War Vet gets to see the doctor.**

**Scene 4 – Doctor’s Office of the VA Clinic – Enter Iraq War Vet, waiting for Doctor**

**Iraq Vet (to himself, up-stage left) – I hate the VA – all I do is wait.**

**VA Doctor– What is it you want?**

**Iraq Vet – I have Iraq War Syndrome**

**VA Doctor – I’ll be the judge of that**

**Iraq Vet – See this arm, it’s falling off. You want to smell my feet.**

**VA Doctor – What was your job in Iraq?**

**Iraq Vet – I loaded Depleted Uranium shells in the tank.**

**VA Doctor – DU is completely safe, you can sprinkle it on your cereal**

**Iraq Vet – You first Doc**

**VA Doctor – OK, roll up your shirt sleeve – I want to take your pulse**

**Improv from here ...**

**Exit Iraq Vet (quite frustrated)**

**NARRATOR: It seems the VA and Chickenhawks in Washington D.C. won’t take care of our Veterans. Stupid White Males in D.C. send our sons and daughters to war, but are not willing to take care of them when they come back. They are not willing to risk a protest by a grieving mother at an Iraq War Vet’s grave, so Memorial Services are banned on U.S. soil. The U.S.A. PATRIOT act says that protestors are U.S. Military bases, event those at Memorial Services, are protesting terrorists.**

**THE CHICKENHAWKS ALL BEAT WAR DRUMS  
BUT NONE OF THEM HAVE FACED A GUN  
THEY WAVE THE FLAG BOTH FAR AND WIDE  
BUT WHEN IT’S TIME TO SERVE THEY HIDE**

**NARRATOR: Next One is Audience Participation – You reply with First Letter of Name**

**IT’S TIME TO TEACH THE PRESIDENT HOW TO SPELL:**

**WHAT’S THE FIRST LETTER OF CHENEY’S NAME...C**

**WHAT ABOUT RUMSFELD....R**

**DON'T FORGET ASHCROFT....A**

**NOW WHAT ABOUT POWELL...P**

**WHAT’S THAT SPELL? ... CRAP (Repeat 3 Times)**

**We are PeaceAware; we are Veterans of Wars of Empire, and we think there are good reasons why Veterans are joining the Peace Movement. We hope you agree, and will reach out with open arms to Support Our Troops – Bring Them Home! And when you do, get them their VA benefits! – Thank you**

For more info on Veterans and the Peace Movement in the United States of America,  
Contact <http://PeaceAware.com> see also <http://peaceaware.com/documents/VVAW.htm>