

Agent Orange Second Generation Victim

Heather A. Bowser

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defects or even die. The Lutheran pastor came to the hospital and baptized me.

My name is [Heather Bowser](#). I am a 38 year old American Mom and wife. I am also a second generation victim of the chemical Agent Orange.

What is [Agent Orange](#)? Agent Orange is the chemical defoliant that was sprayed heavily in Vietnam by the US military during the Vietnam war. It was sprayed by plane, helicopter, and hand to deny the enemy cover.

Agent Orange is often in the news now due to the diseases and premature deaths of our country's Vietnam veterans. My Father passed away in 1998 at the age of fifty. He had five bypasses on his heart at the age of 38. Help for our veterans has been painfully slow in coming, but did you know the children of Vietnam Veterans are also suffering the negative effects of the dioxins used during the Vietnam war?

I am not the only victim. There are many of us all around the globe. American Children of Vietnam Veterans affected by Agent Orange like myself, have been told our illnesses, diseases, or birth defects have no known cause and they have no connection to Agent Orange. However, our Fathers are dying at a young ages and their diseases are being linked to their exposure to Agent Orange. Most, like my father's death, are being considered service connected.

I recently returned from a trip to Vietnam where I made history. I am the first American child of a Vietnam Veteran affected by Agent Orange to travel to Vietnam and meet Agent Orange victims there. I saw birth defects so disturbingly similar to mine it was overwhelming. Other birth defects were much more devastating. The hard truth is that in Vietnam, they are seeing third generation victims. The US has not acknowledged second generation victims in Vietnam or the United States.



My hand and a Twelve Year Old Boy's hand. I Met him at Tu Du hospital in Ho Chi Minh City



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