

## How Do You Know Jane Fonda Deserves Your Disgust?

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The first time I was introduced to such heart felt hate for Jane Fonda was in 1985 when I asked a fellow Fort Bragg soldier about the "I hate Jan Fonda" bumper sticker he was sporting on his rear bumper.

He commenced telling me the same myriad of stories I've heard numerous times since about how her visit to North Vietnamese prisoner of war camps resulted in the beatings and deaths of numerous American prisoners of war.

This did strike a strange cord with me in that I had served in the same war and watched the same newscasts as all other Vietnam veterans and had never heard of these atrocities.

I am, however, ashamed that I did as many folks do; I took his word for it. With each story I'd hear afterwards, my intense dislike for Jane Fonda rose. I would not even entertain reading anything about her let alone attend one of her movies.

I've even been guilty of telling my students about these atrocities until just recently. When another veteran attesting to all of

her atrocities sent me an email message that she was going to be honored by Barbra Walters as one of America's top 100 women, I thought I had heard about this same story some years back. The light came on.

"Before passing on such a rumor, shouldn't I check it out?"

Now, while the Internet is an easy source of rumor, it is likewise an easy source of verification. Before passing on this email as I had been requested, I, finally—after all these years—did stop to verify said rumor before once again being a party to the rumor mill.

I went to [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) and typed in "Jane Fonda Vietnam".

While, I'm still disgusted with anyone who would travel to a country with whom we are fighting and tell them how wrong we are and go on the radio and admonish our troops to give up the fight, I did after all these years, find out the truth.

There is no indication that notes were ever slipped to her to take out of the prisoner of war camps.

Officer after officer who had been rumored to have been the recipients of such beatings, when asked by the

press have all denied any such happenings.

I have always been and will continue to be loyal to my country. However, one of the things that the Red scare and Vietnam has taught me is, we cannot blindly trust and follow those elected to lead.

Having said that, nor can we blindly and faithfully accept what our returning veterans tell us. I have been there. I know men who stated they fully planned on returning to the U.S. and telling war stories they concocted from their own vivid imaginations.

Somewhere along the way some misled soul decided to heap more upon Hanoi Jane's head than actually belongs there.

We don't have to make up lies about such a disgusting public figure. She has done more to shame herself than all of our lies could accomplish. The most that lies about Jane Fonda could hope to accomplish is to give here some wiggle room to dodge bullets (figuratively speaking) that she well deserves.