

Jesse Ventura: Military doesn't 'fight for our freedom'

By Justin Peligri, CNN

🕒 Updated 6:01 PM ET, Tue November 11, 2014



Ventura wins \$1.8M in defamation lawsuit 01:15

Story highlights

Former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura spoke out against the military in a video posted on Veterans Day

He was careful to point out that he's not anti-veteran, given that he is one himself

"If we weren't involved in these wars, we would have more freedom," he said

next war."

Former wrestler and Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura has some harsh words for the armed forces this Veterans Day: If given the option today, he'd opt out of military service.

"I hate to say it, but no, I would be a conscientious objector today," the Navy special forces veteran said in [a video posted Tuesday](#). "I don't believe that the military fights for our freedom."

"They give them all the ra ra at the stadiums, and they cheer 'em on," said Ventura, who served as a Reform Party governor of the North Star state from 1999 to 2003. "But when the veterans come home, we pretty much forget about them. They're old news. They're yesterday's garbage. And it's time to move on to the

Related: Jesse Ventura wins \$1.8 million lawsuit against slain ex-SEAL

He pointed to the fallout from the Vietnam War as an example of these attitudes -- and he predicted that veterans from more modern wars would experience the same thing.



Related Video: Jesse Ventura takes on government crisis 07:23



Related Video: Ventura: Political parties are 'gangs' 01:17

politically active and he hosts a show on the digital television network Ora TV called "Off The Grid."

"There gonna come back to parades, but it's gonna end about right there," he said.

Ventura did say, however, that he isn't anti-veteran. After all, he is one himself, having served in the U.S. Navy Underwater Demolition Team member during the Vietnam War.

"You can hate the war and not hate the vet. The veteran is a pawn. They have to do it. They are not given a choice," he said. "Our vets are honorable people... I bear no grudge."

Related: Hagel wants to give Vietnam vets a second chance

In particular, Ventura took issue with the large dollar amount pinned to foreign wars, arguing that "international corporations" are the ones who "truly run our country today."

"That's why wars are fought -- so the profiteers of war can make money," Ventura said, pointing to the large portion of the annual budget that goes toward national security and defense.

"If we weren't involved in these wars, we would have more freedom," he said.

The video appears on the website of Voices of Liberty, a group led by former Republican congressman and presidential candidate Ron Paul. It lobbies against "unjustified wars, unconstitutional surveillance, [and] extrajudicial drone assassinations," according to its website.

Paid Content

Recommended by



Ever look yourself up? This new site is addicting, enter your name

TruthFinder



Trump's Final Warning To Homeowners - Claim Your Federal \$4,240 Rebate

TheDollarDaily



Sheryl Palmer on Her 'Shoes Off' Leadership Style

The New York Times



No Passport? No Problem: 10 Amazing American Castles

Travelzoo



See the Mercedes Super Bowl Ad by Coen Brothers

Advertising Age



America's "Green Gold Rush" could begin February 1st

Paid Content

Two Million Florida Taxpayers Face Refund Delays *ABC Action News Videos*

The Importance of Socializing Your Puppy *AvoDerm*

New Men's Grooming CEOs Have Nothing to Hide *Harry's*

Is the Bronco as Good as the F-35? *In Homeland Security*

More from CNN

Eminem unleashes on Donald Trump: 'I'll make his whole brand go...

Ivanka Trump's Instagram post stirs controversy

Chelsea Clinton knocks Kellyanne Conway: 'Please don't make up...

Brian Fallon: Sean Spicer lied, should resign

Recommended by

By using this site, you agree to the [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).



3,016,704 likes

beyonce We would like to share our love and happiness. We have been blessed two times over. We are incredibly grateful that our family will be growing by two, and we thank you for your well wishes. - The Carters

view all 196,660 comments



Comments
Add a comment

Beyoncé is the new queen of Instagram