

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

8/11/09

(Standup Week 222)

Tuesday, 6pm–7pm

Why are we in Iraq?

Not because of weapons of mass destruction.

Not because Iraq was involved in 9/11.

Not because Iraq was a threat to our national security.

What have we gotten?

US military dead: 4,330 US military wounded: 31,446

Iraqi civilians killed: 101,129* Money spent on war: \$648 billion

Who are we?

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War has pledged to “Stand Up” until the war ends and the troops come home safely.

Every Tuesday evening at 6 pm (rain or shine), **Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War** assembles on the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and 24th Street to facilitate “**Chelsea Stands Up Against the War,**” a community protest against the war in Iraq.

We carry banners, signs, and candles as we gather for one hour each week to protest the war in Iraq. We distribute this newsletter, peace buttons, collect signatures on petitions and speak with our neighbors about the need to end war in Iraq. The **Stand Up** make a dramatic statement to passing vehicular traffic on 8th avenue.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is an all-volunteer organization that wants to build the broadest possible neighborhood consensus. With that goal in mind, the organization is open to all and functions by consensus.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is not formally affiliated with any other organization but is willing to work with all groups and individuals who are committed to ending this illegal and immoral war fought by our fellow citizens, paid for with our tax dollars, and prosecuted in our name.

*The recent Johns Hopkins/Lancet report places the figure at 655,000+



Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War

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Young Soldiers

By Bob Martin

After Robert McNamara’s recent passing, Bob Herbert reflected on the senselessness of most wars and their impact on the young (*NY Times*, July 7). McNamara, the architect of the Vietnam War, conceded long afterwards that he had been “wrong, terribly wrong”.

Herbert got his draft notice in the mid-60’s. “I was staggered on the first day of basic training to be part of a motley gathering of mostly scared and skinny kids...The hardest lesson for people in power to accept is that wars are unrelentingly hideous enterprises, that they butcher people without mercy and therefore should be undertaken only when absolutely necessary.”

A week after McNamara died I was happy and proud to receive a surprise visit from Shawn. Shawn grew up in Chelsea, was a student of my wife’s at P.S. 11, and played on baseball teams that I coached. As a 12-year-old he had his share of ups and downs. Today he is a man—22 and on his way to Iraq. He will be arranging the transport of equipment as the army moves from Iraq to Afghanistan.

And a week later, I attended a memorial for my father-in-law, Earl Abell. In the last year of his life, Earl assembled his diary and memoirs from World War II. His writings of riding a troop ship as an 18-year-old to the Philippines in 1945, and then engaging in combat, are among the most poignant I’ve ever read. We did not agree on Iraq or Vietnam. But his experience of going to war as a young person—like Bob Herbert—is timeless.



Photo by Gary Schoricht