

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

8/18/09

(Standup Week 223)

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: 4,331 US military wounded: 31,463**

**Iraqi civilians killed: 101,316\* 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

212.726.1385/chelseaneighborsunited@yahoo.com/www.chelseaneighborsunited.org

## America Misses Another Memo

By Dave Robinson

Amidst all the corporate-generated distractions—“birthers,” “teabaggers,” “death panels”—most Americans missed Colonel Timothy R. Reese’s memo entitled “It’s Time for the US to Declare Victory and Go Home,” published 7/30/09 in the NY Times. As Chief of the Baghdad Operations Command Advisory Team, Colonel Reese said “the United States has achieved our objectives in Iraq.” Nevertheless, he wrote, “the general lack of progress in essential services and good governance is now so broad that it ought to be clear that we no longer are moving the Iraqis ‘forward.’”

The Colonel described widespread corruption and divisions within the Iraqi government and security forces, and acknowledged that Iraqis will continue to suffer from violence and various degrees of political instability, no matter what the U.S. does. He recommended that “we should declare our intentions to withdraw all U.S. military forces from Iraq by August 2010, a full year ahead of Obama’s timeframe of August 2011.

The Reese memo should be read in its entirety, both for the questions it raises and for those it avoids. While the Colonel states that Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) is no longer a threat to the Iraqi government, he fails to mention that AQI did not exist prior to our occupation. More importantly, the bloody lessons from Iraq are seemingly disregarded in Afghanistan, where we are dramatically escalating both our involvement and body counts for both soldiers and civilians.

Of course, had we learned the lessons of Vietnam we never would have invaded Iraq in the first place. Support our soldiers—bring them home.



Photo by Gary Schlichter