

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

9/14/10

(Standup Week 279)

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?

### In Iraq

US military dead: **4,418**  
US military wounded: **31,929**  
Iraqi civilians killed: **106,754\***  
Money spent on war: **\$755 billion**

### In Afghanistan

US military dead: **1,279**  
US military wounded: **7,950**  
Afghani civilians killed: **15,938**  
Money spent on war: **\$302 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 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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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## Doing Our Part

By Carla Nordstrom

The village of Franklin, New York celebrates Old Franklin Day on the fourth Saturday of August. This year a new memorial park was opened as part of the festivities. Two monuments for “Our Fallen Heroes” were dedicated; one was for Marine Corporal Nicholas Uzenski who died in Afghanistan in January.

My ninety year old father may be the last veteran from World War II who lives in the village. He was asked to lay a wreath at one of the monuments. It was a hard decision to make; whether to participate in this ceremony. He opposed the US invasions in Iraq and Afghanistan since the beginning and is embarrassed about being a veteran of the “Great War.” He thinks that serving in war is cowardly. In the 1940’s many of his friends were conscientious objectors. He regrets that he didn’t follow his own conscience.

He agreed to lay the wreath and I agreed to help him. As we entered the park, I felt peculiar about participating until I realized that I have worked hard to try to prevent soldiers like Corporal Uzenski from having to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan. I became misty eyed when the honor guard marched in followed by the Patriot Guard Riders (motorcyclists who attend veteran’s funerals to drown out heckling by fanatical anti-soldier zealots). There were no hecklers only peaceful people honoring those who gave their lives for their country.

The only troubling part of this bright sunny day was the invited speaker. He attributed all of our freedoms to the soldiers who fight our wars, not to people who do the right thing.



Photo by Gary Schlichtel