

# Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

9/25/07

(Standup Week 124)

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:** 3,798 **US military wounded:** 27,936

**Iraqi civilians killed:** 80,061\* **Money spent on war:** \$462 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

## Meeting Benchmarks

### By Carla Nordstrom

Recently, the General Accounting Office issued a report on benchmarks that were used to determine the success of President Bush's surge in Iraq. Of the 18 benchmarks, 3 were met, 4 were partially met, and 11 failed. A week later, General George Patraeus and Iraq Ambassador Ryan Crocker testified before joint committees in Congress. They reported that military objectives are being met. The surge is working so 30,000 troops can be brought home in July of 2008.

When these soldiers come home, troop levels will be the same as they were before the surge. It is kind of like riding on a merry-go-round. You end up exactly where you started.

If General Patraeus and Ambassador Crocker were third graders in the New York City schools system, their parents would be called to tell them that they would be held back. These kids would be remediated and considered failures doomed to a life of disappointments. Excuses would be ridiculed.

If General Patraeus and Ambassador Crocker were teachers in the New York City school system, they would be called into the principal's office and told that this school is not the right place for them. Accusations would be made and their reputations would be damaged. The only schools that would be open for these teachers to teach in would be the “bad” schools. Excuses would be ridiculed.

If General Patraeus and Ambassador Crocker were principals in a New York City school, they would be fired. No one would listen to the excuses.

If General Patraeus and Ambassador Crocker were upper level administrators in the Department of Education they would make excuses and say that things were really working even though most of the benchmarks were not met.

Congress has chosen to treat General Patraeus and Ambassador Crocker as upper level educators who do not take responsibility for the effect of their actions. While men, women, and children are dying and living in despair, Congress is allowing two silly men to make excuses for a job poorly done.

What does this say about our society that we hold third graders, teachers, and principals to a higher standard than generals and ambassadors who wage a war that kills people?

If General Patraeus and Ambassador Crocker were teachers in the New York City school system, they would be called into the principal's office and told that this school is not the right place for them. Accusations would be made and their reputations would be damaged. The only schools that would be open for these teachers to teach in would be the “bad” schools. Excuses would be ridiculed.

If General Patraeus and Ambassador Crocker were principals in a New York City school, they would be fired. No one would listen to the excuses.

If General Patraeus and Ambassador Crocker were upper level administrators in the Department of Education they would make excuses and say that things were really working even though most of the benchmarks were not met.

Congress has chosen to treat General Patraeus and Ambassador Crocker as upper level educators who do not take responsibility for the effect of their actions. While men, women, and children are dying and living in despair, Congress is allowing two silly men to make excuses for a job poorly done.

What does this say about our society that we hold third graders, teachers, and principals to a higher standard than generals and ambassadors who wage a war that kills people?