

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

12/4/07

(Standup Week 134)

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: 3,882 US military wounded: 28,582

Iraqi civilians killed: 84,705* Money spent on war: \$482 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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Veteran Suicides

By Kate Abell

In 2005 alone, according to statistics gathered by CBS News from 45 states that responded to their inquiry, 6,526 veterans committed suicide. 120 suicides per week, 17 deaths each day.

At the same time, the Veteran Administration’s backlog of cases is 800,000 and in 2004, the last year for which statistics are available, nearly 6 million veterans and their families were without any health insurance. The NY Times reports that though veterans make up only 11 percent of the adult population, they are 26 percent of homeless people in the United States.

The term cannon fodder—soldiers viewed as expendable in the face of enemy fire, forced to fight against hopeless odds in an effort to achieve someone else’s strategic goal—was first used in 1814 in an anti-war pamphlet exposing Napoleon’s wars of conquest. Today we have a modern version of cannon fodder. The Iraq war is a war of occupation. Casualties of combatants are relatively low, but civilian deaths are 50 times greater and the psychological horror of enforcing an occupation that is the direct cause of those deaths, while fearing for your own life, is incalculable.

Little wonder that 25% of enlisted soldiers and 50% of reservists who return from Iraq have serious mental health issues—issues that are evaded and covered up by the Bush Administration and ignored by the Democrats in Congress who continue to support the occupation. After a tour in Iraq, can you imagine ever again walking into a crowd without your heart racing and palms sweating, or sleeping through the night without the faces of dead civilians haunting your dreams?

Photo by Ian Zlatkin



Representative Jerrold Nadler (8th CD), who represents Chelsea in Congress, joined the Stand Up on 12/19/06.