

GI SPECIAL 3C28:



Army Times 8.22.05

Sailors For Cindy

[Thanks to Tom Palumbo, Norfolk, who sent this in.]

While the crowd at Town Center was made up largely of civilians, there were numerous retired and even active-duty military members present.

August 18, 2005 By STEVE STONE, The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH — There were no angry speeches. No shouting. Just the soft flicker of hand held candles illuminating faces, young and old.

Except for some anti-war sentiments scrawled on a few signs, it was hard to tell why about 200 people had gathered in vigil Wednesday night at Town Center. That is until the first soft voice in song cut through the din of conversation and laughter like a bullet.

“All we are saaaaaying, is give peace a chance....”

"Twenty-four kids died this week" fighting for the U.S. in Iraq, said Chris Permenter, 17, a senior at Cape Henry Collegiate School in Virginia Beach who came with several classmates. "They could have been any one of us."

Betty Cyrus, 49, of Virginia Beach, held a photo of her son, Andy Keffalas, who is serving in the Navy.

"I didn't think the war was going to go well before it even started," she said. "And it hasn't. Now we are stuck over there killing people – and being killed."

The gathering was one of hundreds nationwide in support of Cindy Sheehan whose son, an Army soldier, was killed in Iraq in April 2004.

While the crowd at Town Center was made up largely of civilians, there were numerous retired and even active-duty military members present.

"After 9/11, all I wanted was a way to Afghanistan and an axe," said Bill Everett, a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve.

Back then, he thought the war was just and said he believed Bush.

No more, however.

"It's all about the oil and money," Everett, 29, said. "It's not about protecting the American people, and that's what I signed up for."

As he spoke, a few men passed by, one muttered a denunciation of the demonstration, saying it did not support the troops.

Everett's response was swift.

"I am in the service," he shot back, waving his military ID card.

Everett, served aboard the amphibious assault Nassau in 2002 and 2003 when a routine six-month deployment became nine months at sea at the start of the war. He entered the reserves last year.

He said its time to leave Iraq to the Iraqis.

"Let them settle it among themselves and if they want a religious government, then let them have it," Everett said. "Bush wants religion in government here."

Bryan Brooks, 23, a nuclear electrician aboard the carrier Enterprise , said he is disillusioned with the war because the basis for invading Iraq was its possession of weapons of mass destruction. But that proved to be "definitely, definitely wrong," he said.

"You can oppose the war and still love your country," Brooks said.

And if called to fight, he said he'll obey. "I will do as I am told," Brooks pledged, "even if I don't agree."

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW



A soldier from the 4th Company 2nd Brigade Iraqi Intervention Forces guards a road during a patrol Saturday in Hit, Iraq. Scott Olson / Getty Images

U.S. Soldier Killed In Baghdad

Aug 20, 2005 (AP)

A U.S. soldier was killed Saturday by a roadside bomb in the Iraqi capital, the military said.

The soldier, assigned to the 42nd Military Police Brigade, died at the hospital after the blast in Baghdad, the military said. No other details were released.

At least 1,865 members of the U.S. military have died since the Iraq war began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Maryland Soldier Dies:

“Doyle Told Her He Wanted To Come Home”

Aug 20, 2005 (WJZ) Pocomoke City, MD

A soldier with ties to the Eastern Shore has been killed in Iraq, his family said.

Army Staff Sergeant Jeremy Doyle, 24, was one of four men killed Thursday when their Humvee hit a land mine in the Iraqi city of Samarra, according to his mother, Debbie Grove, of Pocomoke City.

Grove tells WBOC-TV in Salisbury that when she talked to her son three weeks ago, Doyle told her he wanted to come home.

Doyle was a handful growing up, Grove said, but he was lovable.

"He was the class clown," she said. "You know, he didn't like to do his work, but the teachers loved him because he was the class clown."

Doyle's sister, Cammie, says it has been tough since they learned of his death.

"You keep thinking it's just a dream and you're going to wake up. But it never is," she said.

Doyle had been in Iraq since January and was based at Fort Stewart in Georgia.

His family said he leaves a behind a wife, Leah.

Doyle will be buried in Indiana

U.S. Military Vehicle Destroyed In Al-Hadid; Casualties Not Announced

19 August 2005 Aljazeera.Net

In Baquba, Iraqi police source said that a US military vehicle was destroyed in a car bomb blast targeting a US patrol in al-Hadid area.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Resistance Attacks In Kandahar

18 August 2005 By Carlotta Gall, The New York Times

Kabul, Afghanistan - Afghanistan's parliamentary election campaign opened officially on Wednesday with political rallies in Kabul, but the day was marred by an explosion in Kandahar that killed one policeman and wounded 14 others.

The explosion was caused by a remote-controlled bomb that was hidden in a vegetable cart and hit a bus filled with police officers driving into the center of Kandahar, in the south, from a training school, said Col. Abdul Malik Wahidi, the Kandahar Province police chief. He blamed fighters loyal to Afghanistan's former Taliban rulers.

The Sneak In The White House Said This One Was Over Too

August 17, 2005 Miami Herald

The Bush administration declared more than two years ago that major combat in Afghanistan was over.

Tell that to the 60 young men of Battle Company. For the past four months, the U.S. paratroopers and other American units have been fighting a war thousands of feet up in the sun-blasted peaks and boulder-strewn defiles of one of history's most grueling battlefields.

TROOP NEWS

St. Lake City Mayor Calls For Mass Action Against Bush Visit & War On Monday

To: David McReynolds
Sent: 8/20/2005 7:10:06 PM
Subject: St. Lake City

"Patriotism," the mayor said, "demands that people speak out when we see our government officials acting in such anti-democratic and deceitful ways to the people of our country."

From Download:

Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson called for "the biggest demonstration this state has ever seen" to protest President Bush's appearance Monday before a national veterans convention.

"This administration has been disastrous to the country," Anderson said Friday. "If people could organize and speak out in an effective manner from the reddest state in the country, that would garner a lot of attention."

In an e-mail Wednesday to about 10 activist leaders, the maverick mayor of Utah's capital called for a diverse demonstration to greet Bush when he speaks to the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the Salt Palace Convention Center. The mayor plans to join the protesters.

"There should be a collaboration of health-care-provision advocates, seniors, the (gay, lesbian and bisexual and transsexual) community, anti-Patriot Act advocates and other civil libertarians, anti-war folks, pro-Social Security advocates, environmental advocates, anti-nuclear-testing advocates, and anti-nuclear-waste-shipment-and-storage advocates," the mayor wrote in the e-mail.

The mayor's message drew a howl of outrage from Mike Parkin, senior vice commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Atomic Post 4355 in Salt Lake City. "Excuse my French, but - that son of a bitch!" he said. "It makes the mayor look very, very unpatriotic. It makes him look despicable."

Parkin said such demonstrations, particularly against the Iraq war, give comfort to America's enemies and will be particularly offensive to the 13,000 to 14,000 veterans gathering at the convention. **[The man is confused. The demonstration can't possibly be construed as giving Bush any comfort.]**

"I voted for the son of a bitch and I'll never vote for him again," said the Vietnam War veteran.

Anderson disagrees with that measure of patriotism.

"Patriotism," the mayor said, "demands that people speak out when we see our government officials acting in such anti-democratic and deceitful ways to the people of our country."

Vigils for Cindy In Republican Dominated Pennsylvania

The highlight of the evening was when a Harrisburg City firetruck, filled with firemen, rolled past us, and upon seeing Lydia's sign, laid on the horn for 2 blocks. A tremendous roar went up from the crowd of supporters.



Lydia

From: Alycia A. Barr [Military Mom]
To: GI Special
Sent: August 20, 2005
Subject: Vigils for Cindy in Republican Dominated Pennsylvania

Sending some vigil photos from PA. Two were held in the Harrisburg area, one the 16th, the other the 17th. The turnout for both was inspiring, considering the right wing sentiment here.

Wednesday's candlelight vigil brought the press. My 10 yr. old daughter, Lydia, carried a sign that said, "HONK IF YOU SUPPORT CINDY SHEEHAN".

The highlight of the evening was when a Harrisburg City firetruck, filled with firemen, rolled past us, and upon seeing Lydia's sign, laid on the horn for 2 blocks. A tremendous roar went up from the crowd of supporters.

Local TV stations interviewed Lydia, myself and another military Mom, Kathy Allewin from Lebanon, PA. It was their 1st time in front of a camera, and they both did a job Cindy would be proud of.

Following this message are letters written to 2 newspapers who requested responses, from military families, to Cindy's "protest".

Enjoy.

#1 Letter To Tacoma News Tribune

Dear Mr. Gilbert,

I am the mother of a young Army MP who returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, as well as a personal friend of Cindy Sheehan.

It was appalling to read an article appearing in the Washington Post, on August 14, entitled "US LOWERS SIGHTS ON WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED IN IRAQ". The 3rd paragraph quotes unnamed U.S. officials saying, "What we expected to achieve was never realistic given the time table or what unfolded on the ground. We are in a process of absorbing the factors of the situation we're in and shedding the unreality that dominated at the beginning."

The UN-REALITIES perpetrated by the Bush Administration:

1. Iraq has WMDs
2. Iraq has connections to Al-Qaeda
3. Iraq is an "imminent threat" to the United States

Those were the reasons given to Congress by the president of the United States, in his executive order, to garner their vote that gave over their power to declare war, to him. These claims have been undeniably proven to be false and the White House has publicly admitted to that.

The Iraq war not only flies in the face of international law, but is a blatant violation of our own constitution, Article 1, Section 8. These are facts, not conjecture.

So, how many more soldiers and Iraqis will die before they, the administration, has "absorbed" the "unreality" of the situation?

This is why Cindy, along with hundreds of others, sit in the hot Crawford sun, day after day. Someone had to find the courage to relay the sentiments of the American military families, who have sacrificed so much for the "unrealistic expected achievements" of the Bush administration, levied upon them. Cindy has found that way.

It is long past time for the general populous to educate themselves with facts, instead of accepting the rhetoric lies this administration continues to put forth. Read our own government's intelligence reports, that state, unequivocally, it is our occupation, in Iraq, that is promoting terror and terrorism, where it had NOT existed before. Furthermore, it

has been concluded by U.S. agencies, our continued presence there is making America less safe from outside attacks, NOT more secure.

Freedom and democracy has never been deliverable from the end of a gun barrel. If you truly do support the troops, as so many of your yellow bumper stickers indicate, then it is your obligation to find out just how military families, and their soldiers feel betrayed by their own government, and BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW!

In Peace and Humanity,
Alycia A. Barr

#2 Letter To York Dispatch

Dear Ms. McMillian,

After reading your above mentioned article, I felt obligated, as a personal friend of Cindy Sheehan, a mother of a young Iraqi Veteran, and a citizen of Pennsylvania, to respond to Rep. Platt's war stance.

First, and foremost, freedom and democracy are not effectively implemented from the end of a gun barrel.

Mr. Platt's reference to "those who torture them" can be appropriately applied to what our own troops are inflicting on ordinary Iraqis on a daily basis, in one CENTCOM report after another.

Maybe Mr. Platt has not found the time to look beyond the Abu Ghraib scandal. If he had, he would have found out about the 11 Baghdad Task Force soldiers charged with abuse and torture of detainees.

Or, the Aug 16th report of U.S. soldiers who arrested 5 Iraqi children, under the age of 10, refusing to release them until their demands were met. He possibly overlooked the report of the National Guard unit, involving over 130 soldiers, who have been charged with, not only torture and abuse involving tazer guns caught on video, but also set up a "soldier's fund" that bilked more than \$30,000 from Iraqi shop keepers. I could go on, but you probably get my point.

Does Mr. Platt believe that torture at the hands of U.S. troops is any less damaging than that dealt out by Saddam's regime?

As for his belief that stability in the region is in the best interest of our country's national security, he obviously hasn't read any of the Intelligence reports that state, very clearly, it is our presence, and occupation of Iraq that has brought terrorists by the flock there, where none existed prior to it's invasion.

Mr. Platt's ignorance of our own government's information, while common, is a disgrace!

He, along with every member of Congress who voted to give their power to declare war over to the president, without ever reading documents like the NIE, National Intelligence Estimate, should they themselves be voted out of office, as well as the current administration for promoting a war based on lies, and then continuing to spoon feed them to the public.

In Peace and Humanity,
Alycia A. Barr



Kathy Allewin and myself

Heartland American Pukes Up The War: At Brighton's Twelve Corners Gazebo “Cindy Sheehan Is Not Alone”



Pearl Stutz of Webster takes part in an anti-war rally in Brighton yesterday. (KARIN VON VOIGTLANDER staff photographer)

[Thanks to Anna Bradley, who sent this in.]

Nancy Braiman originally estimated a crowd of 100 when she applied for a permit for an anti-war demonstration in Brighton's Twelve Corners gazebo area.

She soon bumped that estimate up, after word of mouth seemed to indicate many more planned to be there. But the turnout Wednesday night was beyond her expectations.

August 18, 2005 Alan Morrell, Staff Writer, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

Nancy Braiman originally estimated a crowd of 100 when she applied for a permit for an anti-war demonstration in Brighton's Twelve Corners gazebo area.

She soon bumped that estimate up, after word of mouth seemed to indicate many more planned to be there. But the turnout Wednesday night was beyond her expectations.

"It's a nice surprise," said Braiman, a Brighton resident, of the hundreds of people who packed the gazebo area. "It feels energizing, especially when you figure there are 1,500 of these (demonstrations) going on tonight in our country."

Some carried signs with messages such as "Stop the War" and "Bring our Children Home." Some began singing "We Shall Overcome," a theme song from the Civil Rights era.

Linda Rapkin of Brighton had thoughts about the huge turnout.

"There has been no way, up to now, to express ourselves," said Rapkin, a retired city school teacher. "If you did, you were deemed unpatriotic."

Rapkin said the Bush administration has to provide better benefits for veterans returning from Iraq. The president also has to resolve problems involving reservists who go to war, then return home to find they have no jobs, she said.

Several motorists who drove by the area honked their car horns in support.

"This is repeated over and over again throughout our country," said Brighton Supervisor Sandra Frankel, who spoke to the crowd through a bullhorn. "We need President Bush to speak to Cindy Sheehan and all the moms and dads who are hurting. We need closure."

Frankel noted that two former Brighton residents — Army Warrant Officer Eric Smith and Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Pernaselli — have died in Iraq. Both left grieving families behind, as was the case with Cindy Sheehan, said Jon Greenbaum of Metro Justice.

"Cindy Sheehan is not alone," he said.

More Straws In The Wind: **COUNTER RECRUITMENT VICTORY AT** **Rochester CSD!**

[Thanks to Anna Bradley who sent this in.]

August 19, 2005 From Michael Freeman, Rochester City Antiwar

We won!

Last night, the Rochester City School Board's proposed policy change that would improve parent notification about the release of their children's names, addresses, and telephone numbers to the military for entry into a recruitment database and would also give parents an easy means of protecting their children's private information HAS PASSED SIX TO ONE thanks to the pressure put on them by coordinated testimony and behind-the-scenes work by many dedicated RAW members!

Unfortunately, the fight's not over. Military recruiters are still allowed into all public schools to try and find their next batch of recruits. Recruiters still target poorer districts where students have less options for the future.

RAW's counter recruitment committee is going to start working on doing counter recruitment tabling in schools.

If you're interested in taking part in organizing and/or tabling for this project, let me know so that I can keep you posted.

We'll probably be having a meeting the last week in August.

NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces. Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces. If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers.

<http://www.traveling-soldier.org/> And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.net)

Keep The Focus Sharp: **“And That Means That My Son's Murder Was Premeditated”**



A poster of U.S. army specialist Casey Sheehan, killed in Iraq, hangs from a tent in Crawford, Texas, August 20, 2005. From private land closer to Bush's ranch, protesters are continuing the vigil started by Cindy Sheehan, mother of Casey. REUTERS/Jason Reed

August 19th, 2005 AMY GOODMAN, Democracy Now!

AMY GOODMAN: If you get this meeting with President Bush, what will you say to him?

CINDY SHEEHAN: I want to ask him what was the noble cause that Casey and the others have died for, because he keeps on saying that they died for a noble cause, and I don't think a war of aggression against a nation that was no threat to the United States of America is a noble cause.

And I'm not going to let him tell me about keeping America safe for freedom and democracy, because he told us before he invaded that it was about weapons of mass destruction and Saddam Hussein with some kind of a link to al Qaeda.

And that's been proven wrong, and it's been proven wrong consistently, and the Downing Street memos prove that as early as July of 2002, they knew that that was wrong and they had to fabricate the intelligence to fit their policy of invading Iraq.

And that means that my son's murder was premeditated.

AMY GOODMAN: Where did your son die?

CINDY SHEEHAN: He died in Sadr City, Baghdad, in an ambush on April 4, 2004.

AMY GOODMAN: What was his understanding of why he was going there?

CINDY SHEEHAN: He thought it was probably for oil, and he didn't want to go.

He didn't agree that the President was using his troops wisely.

And I begged him not to go, and he said, "Mom, I have to go. My buddies are going."

And if I had known that, you know, if I had known what was going to happen to him, I think I probably would have tried to force him into Canada or something, but, you know, he was an adult, and he thought it was his duty, and so I was as supportive as I could be. He was only there for five days, though, before he was killed.

Bush = Premeditated Murderer Traitor Enemy Domestic Unfit For Command



October 23, 2003 Kevin Lamarque/Reuters)

Oh Shit, He Told The Truth

"I don't think we're any different than any other corporation that advertises options about its product or service" he said. Douglas Smith, a spokesman for the Army recruiting command at Fort Knox, Ky., quoted by Damien Dave, New York Times, 8.15.05

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Assorted Resistance Action

20/08/2005 (AFP) & Reuters & By SLOBODAN LEKIC, Associated Press Writer & Gulf Daily News & Aljazeera

FALLUJA - Four Iraqi soldiers were killed and three wounded when an insurgent hurled a hand-grenade at a passing Iraqi army patrol in Falluja, west of Baghdad, a police officer said.

"The incident occurred at 10:30 am (0630 GMT) today in the western Andalus neighbourhood of Fallujah," police captain Juwad Abdul Latif said.

Medics confirmed receiving the bodies of three soldiers. The defence ministry acknowledged there had been an attack but declined to give details.

Four more Iraqi soldiers were killed near the northern town of Shorgat when rebels hit their patrol car with a rocket, a police source said.

Two Iraqi commandos were also killed and two wounded when gunmen opened fire on their patrol in Al-Amiriyah on the western outskirts of the capital, a police source said.

In Baghdad, two policemen were killed in a gunfight on Saturday morning with militants near Al-Shurta tunnel in the Amiryaa neighborhood, Capt. Talib Thamir said.

An Iraqi contractor who worked with the US army was also shot dead by guerrillas near Kirkuk.

A roadside bomb exploded near a convoy of Kurdish militiamen, wounding six on the Mosul's southern outskirts.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

Cause & Effect:

Cause:



An U.S. soldier of the 3rd battalion, 7th Infantry, 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division from Ft Benning, Georgia at the doorway of their house in Baghdad August 3, 2005.
REUTERS/Andrea Comas

[There's nothing quite like invading somebody else's country and busting into their houses by force to arouse an intense desire to kill you in the patriotic, self-respecting civilians who live there.

But your commanders know that, don't they? Don't they?]

EFFECT:



Abutamam.blogspot.com

EFFECT:



Abutamam.blogspot.com

Occupation General Announces Support For The Resistance

August 19, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Transcript; Defense Department Briefing: Presenter: Maj. Gen. David M. Rodriguez, commander, Multinational Force Northwest and Task Force Freedom

“We have remained steadfast in our efforts to help the Iraqi people win the struggle for their freedom.”

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

**Hypocrites And Liars;
“Get Used To It George, We Are
Not Going Away”**

“I got an email the other day and it said, "Cindy if you didn't use so much profanity ... there's people on the fence that get offended.”

And you know what I said? "You know what? You know what, god damn it? How in the world is anybody still sitting on that fence?"

If you fall on the side that is pro-George and pro-war, you get your ass over to Iraq, and take the place of somebody who wants to come home. And if you fall on the side that is against this war and against George Bush, stand up and speak out."



Morning press conference with Iraq Veterans Against The War

by Jeff Paterson, Not in Our Name Aug. 17, 2005, 5:16 PM ;jeff@paterson.net

20 August 2005 By Cindy Sheehan, Truthout Perspective

The media are wrong. The people who have come out to Camp Casey to help coordinate the press and events with me are not putting words in my mouth, they are taking words out of my mouth.

I have been known for sometime as a person who speaks the truth and speaks it strongly. I have always called a liar a liar and a hypocrite a hypocrite. Now I am urged to use softer language to appeal to a wider audience. Why do my friends at Camp Casey think they are there? Why did such a big movement occur from such a small action on August 6, 2005?

I haven't had much time to analyze the Camp Casey phenomena. I just read that I gave 250 interviews in less than a week's time. I believe it. I would go to bed with a raw throat every night. I got pretty tired of answering some questions, like: "What do you

want to say to the President?" and "Do you really think he will meet with you?" However, since my mom has been sick I have had a chance to step back and ponder the flood gates that I opened in Crawford, Tx.

I just read an article posted today on LewRockwell.com by artist Robert Shetterly who painted my portrait.

The article reminded me of something I said at the Veteran's for Peace Convention the night before I set out to Bush's ranch in my probable futile quest for the truth. This is what I said:

"I got an email the other day and it said, "Cindy if you didn't use so much profanity ... there's people on the fence that get offended.

And you know what I said? "You know what? You know what, god damn it? How in the world is anybody still sitting on that fence?

If you fall on the side that is pro-George and pro-war, you get your ass over to Iraq, and take the place of somebody who wants to come home. And if you fall on the side that is against this war and against George Bush, stand up and speak out."

This is what the Camp Casey miracle is all about. American citizens who oppose the war but never had a conduit for their disgust and dismay are dropping everything and traveling to Crawford to stand in solidarity with us who have made a commitment to sit outside of George's ranch for the duration of the miserable Texan August.

If they can't come to Texas, they are attending vigils, writing letters to their elected officials and to their local newspapers; they are setting up Camp Casey branches in their hometowns; they are sending flowers, cards, letters, gifts, and donations here to us at Camp Casey. We are so grateful for all of the support, but I think pro-peace Americans are grateful for something to do, finally.

One thing I haven't noticed or become aware of though is an increased number of pro-war, pro-Bush people on the other side of the fence enlisting to go and fight George Bush's war for imperialism and insatiable greed.

The pro-peace side has gotten off their apathetic butts to be warriors for peace and justice. Where are the pro-war people?

Everyday at Camp Casey we have a couple of anti-peace people on the other side of the road holding up signs that remind me that "Freedom isn't Free" but I don't see them putting their money where their mouths are. I don't think they are willing to pay even a small down payment for freedom by sacrificing their own blood or the flesh of their children.

I still challenge them to go to Iraq and let another soldier come home. Perhaps a soldier that is on his/her third tour of duty, or one that has been stop-lossed after serving his/her country nobly and selflessly, only to be held hostage in Iraq by

power mad hypocrites who have a long history of avoiding putting their own skin in the game.

Contrary to what the main stream media thinks, I did not just fall off a pumpkin truck in Crawford, Tx. on that scorchingly hot day two weeks ago. I have been writing, speaking, testifying in front of Congressional committees, lobbying Congress, and doing interviews for over a year now. I have been pretty well known in the progressive, peace community and I had many, many supporters before I even left California.

The people who supported me did so because they know that I uncompromisingly tell the truth about this war.

I have stood up and said: "My son died for NOTHING, and George Bush and his evil cabal and their reckless policies killed him. My son was sent to fight in a war that had no basis in reality and was killed for it."

I have never said "pretty please" or "thank you." I have never said anything wishy-washy like he uses "Patriotic Rhetoric."

I say my son died for LIES. George Bush LIED to us and he knew he was LYING.

The Downing Street Memos dated 23 July, 2002 prove that he knew that Saddam didn't have WMD's or any ties to Al Qaeda.

I believe that George lied and he knew he was lying. He didn't use patriotic rhetoric. He lied and made us afraid of ghosts that weren't there. Now he is using patriotic rhetoric to keep the US military presence in Iraq: Patriotic rhetoric that is based on greed and nothing else.

Now I am being vilified and dragged through the mud by the righties and so-called "fair and balanced" main stream media who are afraid of the truth and can't face someone who tells it by telling any truth of their own. Now they have to twist, distort, lie, and scrutinize anything I have ever said when they never scrutinize anything that George Bush said or is saying.

Instead of asking George or Scotty McClellan if he will meet with me, why aren't they asking the questions they should have been asking all along: "Why are our young people fighting, dying, and killing in Iraq? What is this noble cause you are sending our young people to Iraq for? What do you hope to accomplish there? Why did you tell us there were WMD's and ties to Al Qaeda when you knew there weren't? Why did you lie to us? Why did you lie to the American people? Why did you lie to the world? Why are our nation's children still in harm's way and dying everyday when we all know you lied?

"Why do you continually say we have to "complete the mission" when you know damn well you have no idea what that mission is and you can change it at will like you change your cowboy shirts?"

Camp Casey has grown and prospered and survived all attacks and challenges because America is sick and tired of liars and hypocrites and we want the answers to the tough

questions that I was the first to dare ask. THIS is George Bush's accountability moment and he is failing ... miserably.

George Bush and his advisers seriously "misunderestimated" me when they thought they could intimidate me into leaving before I had the answers, or before the end of August.

I can take anything they throw at me, or Camp Casey.

If it shortens the war by a minute or saves one life, it is worth it.

I think they seriously "misunderestimated" all mothers.

I wonder if any of them had authentic mother-child relationships and if they are surprised that there are so many mothers in this country who are bear-like when it comes to wanting the truth and who want to make meaning of their child's needless and seemingly meaningless deaths?

The Camp Casey movement will not die until we have a genuine accounting of the truth and until our troops are brought home.

Get used to it George, we are not going away.

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward this E-MAIL along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, at home and inside the armed services. Send requests to address up top.

“What Truly Frightens Governments Is Mutiny Or The Threat Of Mutiny” And What Truly Frightens Fake Anti-War Democrats Is Cindy Sheehan

[Thanks to Phil G, who sent this in.]

What truly frightens governments is mutiny or the threat of mutiny. It was soldiers shooting their officers and sailors pushing planes off air craft carriers that prompted the Pentagon to run up the white flag in Vietnam. Along that same

spectrum is draft resistance, and the refusal to go to war. Already that's had an effect. The Pentagon says the reserve system is in ruins.

August 20 / 21, 2005 By ALEXANDER COCKBURN, CounterPunch [Excerpt]

The aim of any serious anti-war protest is to force a government to quit fighting, pull the troops out, come home right now.

But Sheehan is castigated in the press, by mainstream liberals as well as mad-dog rightists, for not leaving any wriggle-room on this central point. She says, Bring the troops home right now.

How many people echo that straightforward demand? Millions of ordinary Americans around 34 per cent certainly do, if we are to believe the numbers in polls that also give Bush an approval rating of only 34 per cent for his conduct of the war.

But to be effective the opinion of ordinary people has to be harnessed into a powerful political movement that offers energetic leadership.

Here the picture is dismayingly cloudy. MoveOn.org, has used Sheehan's siege of Bush as springboard to mount supportive anti-war vigils.

But what exactly is MoveOn calling for, in terms of ending the war?

Go to the website of the Win Without War coalition, of which MoveOn is a member along with groups ranging from the Sierra Club, to National Organization of women to the Methodists, Unitarians and Quakers and you'll find a mush-mouth statement about "a gradual, phased decrease in numbers rather than augmenting the size of the force", plus other familiar boilerplate about how the UN Security Council "should authorize and encourage the creation of an international stabilization force to assist the Iraqi authorities with security and training of Iraqi forces."

This leisurely agenda doesn't add up to anti-war leadership. After all, Gen. George Casey, the US commander in Iraq, talks bluntly about "some fairly substantial reductions" to start next spring.

It's no secret why MoveOn and Win Without War are so timid.

Square in their field of vision is the Democratic Party whose high-profile congressional leaders such as Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden are calling for more troops to be shipped out to Iraq. Push comes to shove, most of the Win Without War coalition members won't get more than half a beat out of step with the Democrats.

Serious resistance, of the sort Sheehan calls for, has to throw the threat of popular sanction over both Democrats as well as Republicans.

Anyone can go on a vigil. It only costs the price of a candle and a solemn expression. The price of entry into serious antiwar organizing at the crucial moment is steeper. It requires political nerve. A substantial coalition has to lead the way, pointed to by Sheehan, with the slogan Bring Them Home Now.

What truly frightens governments is mutiny or the threat of mutiny. It was soldiers shooting their officers and sailors pushing planes off air craft carriers that prompted the Pentagon to run up the white flag in Vietnam. Along that same spectrum is draft resistance, and the refusal to go to war. Already that's had an effect. The Pentagon says the reserve system is in ruins.

Gold Star moms like Cindy Sheehan could be leading sit-ins at military recruitment offices across the country and in the home district congressional offices of Democrats and Republicans.

How about Cindy Sheehan moving Camp Casey from Crawford to Hillary Clinton's offices in Washington or New York. Only this time the demand would not be for a meeting but for a reversal of HRC's pro war position which has her putting up a bill to increase US forces overall by 90,000.

One of the greatest achievements of the antiwar movement in Vietnam era was to make it untenable for a Democrat, LBJ, to run again for the presidency, or for Hubert Humphrey to run and win on a prowar platform. Question, would the MoveOn operation take the slightest interest in any vigils outside HRC's offices, or those of any other prominent Democrat? Of course not.

Cindy Sheehan frightens the right and stirs them to venom, and she frightens the Democrats too, because she's so clear.

Contrast the timeline of Sheehan as against that of even a relatively decent Democrat like Russ Feingold.

Feingold calls for a start to withdrawal from Iraq maybe sixteen months from now.

How many dead troops and new Gold Star moms can you fit into that calendar.

A thousand or more?

Sheehan's Out Now call should be the bright-line test for any antiwar spokesperson.

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Send to contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld on request. Replies confidential.

OCCUPATION REPORT

Baghdad U.S. Embassy Second In Command Caught Spying For Israel

August 18, 2005 New York Times

The second-highest diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, David M. Satterfield, is one of the anonymous government officials cited in an Aug. 4 indictment as having provided classified information to an employee of a pro-Israel lobbying group, according to people who have been officially briefed on the case.

Occupation General Tries Stand Up Comedy

August 19, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Transcript; Defense Department Briefing: Presenter: Maj. Gen. David M. Rodriguez, commander, Multinational Force Northwest and Task Force Freedom

"The Iraqi security forces continue to make strides in improving security for all Iraqi citizens."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK

Republican Senator Tells Rumsfeld To Shut Up About Venezuela

19 August 2005 The Associated Press

Washington - A Republican senator asked Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Friday to lower his rhetoric against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to help win Venezuela's support for combating illegal narcotics.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa. who met this week with Chavez, reminded Rumsfeld in a letter that the United States needs Venezuela's help for effective action against drug trafficking in South America.

"In this context," the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman wrote, "it may well be helpful to, at least, have a moratorium on adverse comments on Venezuela."

Republican Senator Tells Bush To Shut Up About Iran; Calls His Threats “Empty And Foolish”

19 August 2005 Reuters

Washington - Republican Party foreign policy expert Sen. Chuck Hagel is calling for the United States to open talks with Iran's new president and has dismissed President George W. Bush's talk of a military option against Tehran as an empty and foolish threat.

"Quite frankly, what is the military option, what are we talking about here? We lose credibility in the face of the world when we say things like, 'Well just don't forget what happened to Iraq could happen to you Iran. We could invade you, we could bomb you.'

"Oh come on now. First of all, where are we going to get the troops?"

Rumsfeld Says Dead U.S. Troops Getting Too Much Attention In Media; No More Important Than U.S. Traffic Accidents



[Thanks to Don Bacon; Smedley Butler Society, who sent this in.]

August 16, 2005 U.S. Department of Defense News Transcript; Secretary Rumsfeld Radio Interview with Jack Harris, Tedd Webb and Sharon Taylor, WFLA 970 AM, Tampa Bay Florida

"And I look at the situation and I -- in my mind, I think of the number of people who are lost to traffic accidents in the United States in a given year. I think of any one of our major cities, where two or three hundred people are killed by homicides. And you ask how long will we tolerate it?"

"Now, if there were a daily report about the number of traffic deaths and if the television and the press were reporting these things and photographing them and the homicides, I don't know if -- Washington, D.C. had something like 230 homicides last year -- and if that were reported daily every single day, one would think that the effect might be that it would reduce the number of homicides or reduce the number of traffic deaths.

"But what's being reported is the fact -- not the fact that the schools are open, not the fact that the hospitals and clinics are open, not the fact that Iraq's got a stock exchange and that their oil and energy circumstances are proceeding apace not the fact that tens of thousands of people are lined up to join the Iraqi security forces, not the fact that there's hundreds and hundreds of people running for public office and that there were something like 8 million people who voted in the last election on January 30th.

"Those kinds of things get relatively modest attention, and what gets the attention is the death of Iraqis and the death of coalition forces."

GEORGE BUSH: POLITICAL GENIUS

The Commander-in-Chief Speaks

"My position has been clear, and therefore, the position of this government is clear. Obviously, the conditions on the ground depend upon our capacity to bring the troops home." G. W. Bush

THIS IS NOT A SATIRE

18 August 2005 By Peter Baker, The Washington Post

Sen. Russell Feingold (D-Wis.) called on the White House yesterday to withdraw all US forces from Iraq *by the end of next year* and *criticized fellow Democrats for being too "timid" in challenging the Bush administration's war policy.*

Received:

Objection And Reply

From: D

To: GI Special
Sent: August 19, 2005

The article about the Navy wife denied funding for an abortion has no relevancy to the war. Perhaps you're not aware that there are pro-lifers in the antiwar movement, and I'm not the only one. I am of an anarchist bent and my position is a personal moral view; I don't address legal/political aspects, but I am a pro-lifer nonetheless.

While again, it has no relevancy to opposing the war, my view is that I don't see how aborting a deformed fetus is superior to letting nature take its course. It's not as though the mother's life was in danger, and abortions are not exactly a healthy procedure for a woman to undergo.

Nature sometimes makes mistakes, but human solutions to those mistakes are not necessarily the ideal solutions. I have known a woman who gave birth to a child who was anencephalic and it had no negative effect on her health and physical stamina. An abortion on the other hand is a very invasive procedure that is not good for a woman's body. Such things are extremely traumatic, but having an abortion does not stop or heal the pain.

I just think you should be a little more aware of your audience and not assume that we all agree with your take on this.

Since it has nothing to do with opposing the war, I think it would be better for the antiwar movement not to drag it in. For all you know, Monica Benderman and Cindy Sheehan might be pro-lifers, too -- I know that J[xxx]'s mother is, and so is T[xxx] - and while I don't actually know, if I were to guess, my guess would be that they are, too.

I march against the war with women who are also pro-abortion choicers and I maintain friendships with them.

I just don't discuss the subject. It's not worth it.

REPLY:

The article in question has to do with a federal appeals court in San Francisco ruling Thursday that the Navy need not pay for an abortion received by a sailor's wife, even though doctors said the fetus had a birth defect and could not survive. This meant the military family got stuck with a bill for several thousand dollars.

The woman terminated her pregnancy in 2002 after she learned that her fetus had no forebrain or cerebellum, a fatal condition known as anencephaly. Because her husband was in the Navy, the woman was covered under the military's health plan, the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Uniformed Services, or Tricare.

But Tricare administrators said they were barred from paying for the abortion. Federal law prohibits payment for abortions except "where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term."

This federal law denies payment for abortions for military personnel even in cases of rape or incest. That is legislation worthy of the days when it was unlawful to write that

the world was round, when women were chattels like cows, and slavery was held to be God's lawful will.

Whether or not any given individual does or does not wish to have an abortion is that individual's decision, and in this instance, her decision was reasonable and medically sound, whatever others may think of it from any other point of view. People may have honest disagreements about that, but the choice is hers, not theirs.

What is intolerable is when some politicians decide to punish people who choose to have an abortion, as in this case, even though people who are for a woman's right to choose are the majority of Americans. It's even worse for people in the military, who do not have the option of choosing their health care plans.

This court decision was denounced in GI Special as an abuse generally, and a vicious, cruel abuse of this family in particular for exactly that reason, and rightly so.

People who decide against an abortion for any reason in this type of situation have the right to the best medical care, and for military people, would be charged nothing for it.

People who decide for an abortion in this type of situation have the right to the best medical care, and should be charged nothing for it. But that's not how it is, as this case so perfectly illustrates.

Neither people for or against abortions have the slightest right to dictate law to others about whether or not they may, should, or can have an abortion, including dictating the terms and conditions of medical care for those who do not agree with them.

There is no difference whatever between saying that if she chooses not to have an abortion, the military would stop paying for her treatment to term because the fetus could not live, than saying that if she chooses not to carry to term, the military won't pay for ending the pregnancy. None.

And no one should be punished for refusing to bow down before the religious views of lawmakers, whether financially or otherwise. And that's exactly what is happening in this case.

That's the issue here, not one's own personal view of abortion, which someone may or may not wish to discuss, depending on the time, place and circumstances. This is a matter of invidious treatment and punishment by law.

Since inception, GI Special has carried articles denouncing all kinds of abuses of military personnel, and their families, ranging from government schemes to close commissaries, to failures to provide certain educational benefits for people in the armed services for over ten years, to the way officers hogged handicapped parking on some bases although in the best of health.

None, previously, have ever been objected to as not directly related to the war. None, obviously, were directly related to the war. So that's not the issue here either.

This is not about who marches with who at a rally or demonstration against the war, either. This is about punishing women in the armed services medical plan financially for a lawful medical decision.

And no, there will be no retreat from asserting a women's right to free, safe abortion on demand, civilian or military. Or her equal right not to have an abortion, with free, safe medical care to term, regardless of the expenses involved in this or other cases, however hopeless the prospects for the life of the fetus or how monstrous the deformity. Neither view will be silenced when a member of the armed forces or military family member is shit on.

No one has the right to dictate to the woman what her choice is to be, though the application of legally sanctioned financial blackmail, as in this case, or in any other way.

As Malcolm X used to say, "Let it be even Steven."

Given the will of the majority of Americans on this question, were this society anything remotely resembling a democracy, the issue of payment for her care would never have arisen.

And the problem of unrepresentative government, by the way, has a great deal to do with the war, more so every day.

The same hypocrites in Washington who practice mass death in Iraq posture about their commitment to life on the abortion question.

Unlike those politicians, the writer here is consistent and principled, in opposing both abortion and the war on the same grounds, and one would assume, opposing the death penalty as well.

That is everyone's right, and need not be divisive, provided they do not support imposing their views on others by the application of legal force and the denial of benefits to members of military families.

And that was the question raised by what happened to this navy wife, not the right or wrong of abortion in the abstract.

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