

COUNTING THE COST OF WAR

4th Anniversary of the start of the Iraq War:
March 19, 2003 – 2007

Lives Lost
Lives Wounded
Human Needs Unmet
Societal and Spiritual Damage



We mourn the tragic loss of life
We grieve for our dead servicemen and women,
for the dead Iraqi men, women and children,
for lives shattered by wounds, seen and unseen.

We honor those lives, and those sacrifices
The human cost of the Iraq War grows every day.
How many more?

We pray for the wisdom to understand how the seeds of every conflict are
planted, and to help our country make wiser decisions today, with policies and
actions that will lead to a peaceful future.

We believe the people of this country can persuade Congress to stop the President's escalation of the war in Iraq and prevent him from starting wars with Iran and Syria. We need to act quickly and responsibly, because the lives of many depend on what we do, and how we do it. We need all of our voices. Now.

"Ultimately, in the case of Vietnam, the antiwar movement included a majority of the country, and it saved the lives of untold thousands of Americans by getting us out of that war — not quickly, but eventually. If opponents of today's war in Iraq manage to do the same, it will be surprising if many American soldiers object. "...Time Magazine, 2/19/07.

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1591571,00.html>

The statistics have become numbing, but each is a life, with a family and a community:

3218+ American military deaths
60 Maryland and 3 Frederick County deaths

258 troop deaths from other coalition countries;
over **3,000** contractors, and **113** journalists

At least **33,000 to 100,000** U.S. troops wounded in action,
not including wounds from non-hostile actions, or psychological disabilities,
estimated to impact **17% of the 1.5+ million** returning troops.

Estimated 650,000 Iraqi deaths

untold numbers of Iraqi wounded; millions of Iraqis displaced and fleeing from the violence

IRAQ WAR COSTS:

Cost to U.S. Taxpayers to date: \$410 Billion and counting

Cost of Frederick County Taxpayers: \$71 Million

Cost to Maryland Taxpayers: \$8 Billion

**Long-term funds truly needed to care for 23,000+ wounded Veterans: est. at
\$300-600 billion over 40 years**

For the amount of money already spent, the following could have been:

- ◆ One year of health insurance for 245 million children, or
- ◆ Head Start for 54 million children, or
- ◆ Salaries for 7 million teachers, or
- ◆ 3.6 million affordable housing units, or
- ◆ 4-year college scholarships at a public university for 20 million students

The money spent on the Iraq War could have bailed out the Social Security system until the year 2070 and provided healthcare for 72 million Americans. Imagine how spending \$410 Billion dollars to revitalize our communities would have also strengthened our economy and our security.

In November 2006, the American people sent a clear message to the President and Congress for a change of course and a clear and responsible plan to quickly withdraw American Troops from Iraq. Instead, President Bush has begun to deploy an additional 28,500 troops. We join the many voices in the military, the Congress and the public that are opposed to this “surge”.

We know that our country, and Iraq no longer have good options for ending the violence. But we also know that continuing on the current course is leading to yet more violence, and that there is no military resolution to what is happening in Iraq. **Most Americans, and a majority of the Congress are calling for another course of action, for our troops to come home.**

What you can do:

Congress can stop this war! Momentum is growing. Tell our elected officials not to approve one more dollar for this war, without first insisting on a change in U.S. Policy. Call: Congressman Bartlett: <http://www.bartlett.house.gov/> 202/225-2721 or 888-297-8006;

Senator Mikulski: <http://www.mikulski.senate.gov/mailform.html> 202/224-4654;

Senator Cardin: 202-224-4524 <http://www.cardin.senate.gov/mailform.html>

See Friends Committee on National Legislation (<http://www.fcni.org/iraq/index.htm>) for an alternative strategy in Iraq that includes:

- ◆ A timeline for U.S. withdrawal;
- ◆ U.S. initiatives for negotiations to bring Iraqi nationalists, who are fighting the government and resisting the U.S. occupation, to a cease-fire and to the negotiating table;
- ◆ U.S. participation in a regional peace process that includes talks and implementing actions with all of Iraq's neighbors – including Syria and Iran; and
- ◆ Substantial U.S. financial support for the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq;

Write your own letter, or sign a letter to Congress at: <http://www.afsc.org/iraq/default.htm>

See United for Peace and Justice for other actions you can take:

<http://www.unitedforpeace.org/index.php>

Help MoveOn's Operation Democracy Frederick County Chapter lobby Rep Bartlett: contact Ed Hinde at (240) 235-6322, Email: edhinde@aol.com

Help Frederick Peace Resource Center's No! Iran War Campaign: Call: 301-834-7581 or Email: frederickpeace@juno.com



Women in Black Frederick. www.wibfrederick.org Email: info@wibfrederick.org or call: 301-694-9410 . All around the world, Women In Black stand in silent vigil, wearing black as a symbol of mourning, for the ravages of war and violence. WIB is an international grassroots women's peace advocacy network, present in 40 countries, and in 40 US states. Our vigils are a public statement that violence and oppression, under any label, are unacceptable.