

The Stop the War ... Community Challenge

Dear Friends:

Two events on March 17th that need your attention and the attention of your friends. If you are not able to go to Washington, please go to Hartford! Information on both can be found at the www.hopeoutloud.org web site.

- In Washington, March on the Pentagon
- In Hartford, a Connecticut Opposed War (COW) Rally

There are 169 towns in Connecticut. If every one of these towns sends 100 people to Hartford or a small delegation to Washington, that will be a loud and clear statement that will echo all the way to Washington!

The November elections have made it possible to end the war in Iraq sooner rather than later – but opposition to the war must continue to be made boldly and clearly to the Congress and to our fellow citizens.

March 17th, 2007, the 4th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, is our next opportunity to act in concert. We are called to Washington and to Hartford.

A few facts for discussion:

- *In a January poll, 70% of the Iraqis favored U.S. withdrawal, with a timetable of between 6 months and 2 years.*
- *67% thought security of the population would increase if U.S. troops were to leave.*
- *47 % of Iraqis supported attacks on Coalition troops.*
- *New Hartford's share in the costs of the Iraq war is estimated as \$19.1 million, a sum that would go a long way towards solving our town's budgetary problems!*
- *Connecticut's share is \$9.2 billion.*
- *Every minute, the U.S. spends \$100,000 on the war in Iraq, according to the Seattle Times.*

The Community Challenge: Can your community match the enthusiasm of New Hartford?

For Example:

We, the undersigned, are writing to invite you to join us at _____ (meeting time) _____ in the parking lot (at location) _____ for a car pool caravan to the 3 PM Hartford rally. Bring a friend, bring two or three friends! Help _____ (your town) _____ send 100 people, which we know is only a small percentage of the people in (your town) _____ who want these military actions ended.

Please give us a call at _____ (contact phone or e-mail) _____ to let us know you will commit to participating in the March 17th Hartford rally, and to let us know how many others you can bring with you to the meeting point at the Town Hall parking lot. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

(local organizers)