SHED LIGHT ON US WAR CASUALTIES: FROM THE FRONT LINE TO THE BACK DOOR

Walter Reed Army Medical Center (North Gate) 7200 Georgia Ave., at Elder St., NW Every Friday, 8-10 p.m.

CODE PINK, the women's peace vigil (www.codepinkalert.org) continues it's night vigil every Friday at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, designed to draw attention to the late-night arrival of seriously-wounded soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan. These soldiers are the most seriously-wounded – with shattered limbs, brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorders. They are delivered to Walter Reed (and Bethesda Naval Medical Center) under cover of darkness, at 10 p.m. or later. We believe the night-time arrivals are scheduled purposely to minimize public attention to, and knowledge of, the flow of seriously-wounded soldiers from the war. This is consistent with the Bush Administration policy prohibiting the photographing of coffins arriving at Dover AFB.

We vigil to:

- Shed light on the flow of seriously-wounded soldiers to Walter Reed
- Support soldiers in their efforts to achieve adequate lifetime disability payments
- Protest unequal health benefits for injured National Guard soldiers as compared to Active Duty troops
- Protest minimizing of numbers of injuries, including mental and PTSD disorders
- Protest FY05 budget cuts in soldiers' health care (including new fees and higher prescription drug payments)
- Protest FY05 overall cuts in the Veterans Administration budget, including long-term funding
- Protest FY05 budget cuts in education and family-support programs, directly impacting veterans and their families

JOIN US AT WALTER REED FOR THE WEEKLY VIGIL: SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE

Vigil Contacts: Ann Wilcox 202-441-3265; Ellen Taylor: 202-270-1861

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