



Cape Codders for Peace and Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peace Rally to Precede Rep. Delahunt's Iraq War Forum

–Gathering of peace activists, veterans and military families to reiterate demands for U.S. troop withdrawal, respect for constitutional liberties, and Otis Base closing –

CAPE COD, Mass., June 14, 2005 – Cape Codders for Peace and Justice (CCPJ) will host a peace rally on Saturday, June 18, at 3 p.m. in advance of U.S. Rep. William Delahunt's 4-5 p.m. "regional town meeting" on the Iraq War. Veterans, military families, and peace groups from throughout the 10th congressional district will converge on Falmouth to attend the rally and forum, which Delahunt agreed to host at the request of CCPJ.

The peace rally and Iraq War forum will be held on Saturday, June 18 at the Morse Pond School, Jones Road in Falmouth. Rep. Delahunt has invited two speakers to the forum – Boston University Professor Andrew Bacevich and Husain Haqqani, a visiting scholar with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – and Delahunt will moderate a question-and-answer session after the speakers' presentations.

"We're pleased that Rep. Delahunt agreed to host the forum as a long-needed venue to discuss this vital issue with concerned Cape Codders and other district citizens," said Cotuit resident Dr. Stephanie Wall, a CCPJ member who recently met with Delahunt's staff and other 10th district peace activists to provide input for the forum. "The forum also gives Delahunt's constituents a chance to voice our support for congressional investigation into the 'Downing Street Memo' and other evidence showing how the Bush administration concocted fraudulent justifications for the invasion of Iraq."

Delahunt – who voted against the war's authorization in 2002 – recently joined 500,000 Americans and nearly 100 other Congress members thus far who have signed a citizens' petition, initiated by Rep. John Conyers Jr., demanding answers from the administration and a formal Congressional inquiry to determine whether sufficient grounds exist for the U.S. House to impeach President Bush. (For more about this broad effort, see <http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/>) Rep. Conyers, ranking House Judiciary Committee member, will convene a hearing this Thursday, June 16, to gather further Downing Street Memo testimony.

Delahunt has billed this Saturday's Iraq forum as an opportunity to "take a big step back, and reflect together on long-term implications of these hostilities – not only on our foreign policy, but on our domestic economy and homeland security." In that spirit, the CCPJ-sponsored peace rally plans to spotlight local perspectives on the impact of the Iraq war – an estimated \$200 million (and growing) cost to Barnstable County alone, the continued price paid by military personnel and their families from the 10th district, and the increased danger to all Americans caused by worldwide outrage over civilian "collateral damage," illegal detentions and torture, and other misconduct of the "war on terror."

"Cape Codders for Peace and Justice will continue to push Bill Delahunt to take the strongest possible actions for peace as our representative in Congress," said Harwich resident Diane Turco, a CCPJ member who has met repeatedly with Delahunt's staff to communicate CCPJ's positions – which include an immediate withdrawal from Iraq and elimination of repressive domestic measures such as the USA PATRIOT Act.

CCPJ also plans to underscore its support for the planned closing of Otis Air Force Base – currently opposed by Delahunt – because of the base's devastating impact on the fragile ecology of Cape Cod. The Alliance for Base Cleanup, a CCPJ member organization, has worked for many years to hold the U.S. military accountable for decades of groundwater poisoning and other environmental destruction caused by the base, which is the largest Superfund toxic waste cleanup site in Massachusetts.

"CCPJ joins many area residents in calling for full environmental cleanup, the shutdown of military operations, programs for civilians who lose their jobs in the base closure, and conversion of the facility to peaceful uses including continued Coast Guard air rescue," said James Kinney of West Barnstable, a CCPJ member and longtime activist with the Alliance for Base Cleanup.

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About Cape Codders for Peace and Justice

Cape Codders for Peace and Justice (CCPJ) is a Cape Cod-based affiliate of United for Peace & Justice, the nation's largest anti-war coalition. The mission of Cape Codders for Peace and Justice is to actively promote and encourage democratic, multi-racial and non-violent decisions in all aspects of our nation's domestic and foreign policy. The group joins progressive individuals and organizations across the Cape, including ad hoc alliances well as ongoing affiliation with groups that include:

- Alliance for Base Cleanup
- Cape Cod Bill of Rights Defense Committee
- Clothesline Project
- Fellowship of Reconciliation (Cape Cod)
- Green CAPE
- Green-Rainbow Party of Cape Cod
- Let Haiti Live
- Outer Cape Peace and Justice Circle
- Resource Center for Peace and Justice
- The Brewster Peace Organizing Project
- Veterans for Peace
- American Friends Service Committee – Southeast New England
- POCLAD (Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy)
- WILPF Cape Cod (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom)

Awareness, education and non-violent action are the tools CCPJ uses to better understand and confront our nation's dominant institutions and powers. CCPJ challenges global corporate capital in the promulgation of war, environmental destruction and impoverishment, and seeks peace, freedom, justice, democracy, and respect for the rights and security of all people, as well as the earth's living environment.

For more information, visit www.capecodpeaceandjustice.org