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Progressive Maryland, NAACP, Allies Denounce President Bush's Veto of Congress's Plan to End Iraq War

Local community leaders decry cost of war to Maryland and working families

Baltimore, Md., May 2, 2007 -- Progressive Maryland, joined by the Maryland NAACP, labor and student leaders, denounced President George W. Bush's veto last night of Congress's timetable to redeploy U.S. troops out of Iraq. The groups held a news conference at 11 a.m. today on the rooftop of the Baltimore offices of the labor union UNITE-HERE.

Bush delivered his veto four years to the day after his now infamous "Mission Accomplished" speech, when he declared the war won. In fact, since that speech, the war has intensified, costing the U.S. 3,200 American lives, thousands more wounded, and \$420 billion.

"Mr. Bush's war is inflicting a heavy cost on America – and on Maryland: 64 dead Marylanders, hundreds of Marylanders wounded, and 8 billion Maryland dollars wasted that should have been used to fight the real enemy, al-Qaeda -- and to pay for the schools and health care that working families need," said Margaret Flowers, a board member of Progressive Maryland, a nonprofit organization that advocates for working families.

"Working families bear a heavy burden from Mr. Bush's unnecessary war," said Sean Dobson, Progressive Maryland's Acting Director. "That's because soldiers are disproportionately from working families, including many of the thousands of Maryland guardsmen who were just called up to active duty to fight. If, as Bush claims, winning this war is so vital to U.S. national security, why doesn't he send his own daughters and other children of privilege to fight?"

"The timetable to pull troops out contained in Congress' supplemental budget was a modest first step toward heeding the will of the people," said Elbridge James, Vice President of the NAACP, Maryland State Conference of Branches. "Yet President Bush rejected even this modest plan for gradual redeployment provided to him by the people's elected representatives. Congress needs to use its constitutional powers to set a date certain for troop redeployment and phase out appropriations for the Iraq quagmire as soon as possible."

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See Cost of War to US & MD at <http://costofwar.com/index.html>

Photos of "Maryland's Fallen" at www.baltimoresun.com/

and <http://icasualties.org/oif/USMap.aspx?hndState=Maryland>

"Baltimore Soldier Dies in Iraq", *Washington Post*, May 2

www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/01/AR2007050101636.html

Progressive Maryland: www.progressivemaryland.org