

## VOICES FOR CREATIVE NONVIOLENCE WILL OVERNIGHT IN SAUK PRAIRIE

Members of the Chicago based Voices for Creative Nonviolence (VCNV) left the windy city on July 12 for a 52 day Witness Against War trek through Illinois and Wisconsin, ending in St Paul, MN on September 1.

On July 30, they will be in Sauk Prairie, arriving from Waunakee at approximately 3:30 pm. The 10 members of the walk plus any local folks who joined in along the way will be welcomed by Women in Black (WIB) as they cross the Highway 12 bridge.

For over a year now, Women in Black-Sauk City Bridge have stood in silent vigil from 4-5 pm weekly to mourn ALL war and all that war entails. They stand in solidarity with those throughout the world who suffer from oppression, violence, and injustice.

On July 30, the WIB vigil time will be adjusted to coordinate with the arrival of the VCNV walkers. Members of the Sauk Prairie Area Peace Council (SPAPC) also will be present to greet the walkers. **You are invited to join these groups on the bridge**, then as the vigil ends there, to proceed to **Park Hall for a spaghetti supper for all** served by the Free Congregation/SPAPC. Mike Mossman and family will provide music as Sauk Prairie residents have a chance to meet walkers personally and to hear a short presentation. Co-coordinators for VCNV are Kathy Kelly and Dan Pearson, both of Chicago. Other walkers are from all across the United States, and one is from Sweden.

During their stay in Sauk Prairie, walkers will be hosted overnight by local residents. On July 31, they will walk to Devil's Lake State Park for their next overnight, and then on to Baraboo. **Local residents are invited to join them for the next part of this walk.**

The main objectives of this witness action are to end the war in Iraq immediately and to secure full funding for veterans' initiatives. Another objective is more local to Wisconsin. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team of the Wisconsin National Guard, also known as the "Red Arrow Brigade" is expected to be deployed by June 2009. This deployment would be the largest of the Wisconsin National Guard since World War II, according to Pearson.

"We'd be asking that the Wisconsin National Guard stay home", said Pearson. "The permission to deploy the Wisconsin National Guard units has expired. So there is a legal angle here. Whether it's politically possible has yet to be seen."

For more information about Voices for Creative Nonviolence and this particular action, Witness Against War, check their website [www.vcnv.org](http://www.vcnv.org) You also will find an interactive map of the walk and biographical sketches of the 10 walkers at this site.

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