

WITNESS AGAINST WAR: 2008



From Chicago to Saint Paul
July – August 2008

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WITNESS AGAINST WAR: A 450 MILE WALK FROM CHICAGO TO SAINT PAUL IN JEFFERSON COUNTY FROM JULY 23 TO JULY 26

From July 23 to July 26, Witness Against War—an effort to end the Iraq war—will make its way through Jefferson County. Participants will walk along Highway 18 from Wales to Sullivan (July 23) and from Sullivan to Jefferson (July 24), then follow Highway 18 to Highway 89, from Jefferson to Lake Mills (July 25) and County Highway B from Lake Mills to Cottage Grove (July 26). The walk will begin between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. each day, depending upon weather conditions. Please call 312-286-8535 for start times and locations.

On July 24 at 7:00 p.m., Jeff Leys (a 1982 graduate of Watertown Senior High School who was in Iraq in 2003 both before and after the war began) will speak at a gathering of the Jefferson County Democrats at Commons Park in Lake Mills.

Witness Against War is a 450 mile walk from Chicago to Saint Paul intended to promote dialogue and to build opposition to the Iraq war. Participants include those with first hand experience in Iraq, including those with Voices for Creative Nonviolence and with Iraq Veterans Against the War. Witness Against War calls for the complete withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq, the highest quality health care for veterans and full U.S. funding for the reconstruction of Iraq.

“As an Iraq war veteran, I’m joining this effort to bring all of my fellow soldiers home from this illegal war in Iraq,” says Paul Melling, an Army veteran who served in Iraq from February 2003 to January 2004. “Our country has an obligation to provide health care and benefits for all veterans. Our duty is to serve our country, not to occupy another country.”

Witness Against War will journey through or near many communities which will be affected by the scheduled deployment of the 32nd Red Arrow combat brigade of the Wisconsin National Guard to Iraq in 2009. This deployment will be the largest deployment to combat of the Wisconsin Guard since World War II, when the Red Arrow served the longest time overseas of any Army unit during the world war. Units of the Red Arrow are located in 36 communities through the state of Wisconsin.

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