

Developing Community Memorials for the Fallen in Iraq

As the Iraq war continues, communities are looking for ways to highlight the human cost of this war. Below are some suggestions from groups around the country who have organized local events and memorials. Share with us the outcome of your event to keep the chain for peace going. Email:

In planning your memorial, take into account:

1. **Visual symbols:** Use your creativity to develop a visual display that will help communicate the human cost of the war as well as to memorialize those fallen. This will increase your exposure by engaging folks who may not stop to talk with a person handing out fliers or getting names on a petition. Some ideas include:
 - Memorial wall
 - Candles or luminaries for each fallen
 - Crosses, star of David, Muslim crescent
 - Flags for each fallen
 - Coffins
2. **Memorial ceremonies/events:** Many communities have held a special ceremony or event to remember those fallen. This could include a reading of names of those killed, as well as the wounded or suicides. Include speeches of religious leaders, public officials and family members of soldiers.
3. **Public venues:** the more public traffic the better! You are trying to bring information to the public that the mainstream media has been ignoring.
 - Public parks or plazas
 - In front of government buildings
 - Busy intersections
 - Schools or universities
4. **An educational moment:** use this opportunity to increase the public's understanding about the war without alienating those in favor of the war. Help people understand the many costs of this war through factual information.
5. **Keep it going!** Many communities pick a regular time each week for their display to be set up, or read names or... some communities have had the memorial moving each week. Decide what works best for your community or region but develop a way to keep the focus ongoing...just like the war is ongoing.
6. **A world view:** A better kept secret than the loss of US lives is the body count of Iraqis. Remember to name Iraqi soldiers, civilians and the lives from coalition countries.

Resources:

1. Names of those killed for public readings or memorial walls.
(how to get these from AFSC as well as icasualties.com)
2. News clips of other communities:

War dead honored in Oceanside

www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/iraq/memorial/20040121-9999_1mc21vigil.html

War dead remembered

www.veteransforpeace.org/War_dead_remembered_032104.htm

Iraq Memorial Honors Casualties on both sides of War in W. Hartford

www.madhattersimc.org/modules.php?file=article&name=News&op=modload&sid=2954

3. Educational materials
(can we add Links to our other material)