September 16, 2005

Dear friends,

Yesterday, Chicago, today, Philadelphia. In the last 48 hours two of the largest cities in the country have passed resolutions calling for the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq. You can download a copy of the Philadelphia Resolution, which was specifically in recognition of the Bring Them Home Now Tour, as a PDF by clicking here. Our North tour is looking forward to celebrating these victories with a rally today at Independence Mall in Philadelphia and we've got a full weekend of events planned up and down the East coast.

In the next three days, we'll be stopping in Philadelphia, Boston, New Haven, Providence, New York, Fayetteville, Durham, Williamsburg and Baltimore. If you're near any of these cities, we hope you'll join us (event details are on our website) and please let your friends know about them too. And there are more stops next week as we make our way to Washington, DC.

As we're making our way to DC our thoughts are with the many people in New Orleans and along the gulf coast who have suffered greatly in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. When the North Tour stopped in Toledo Ohio last week, Al Zappala talked about his son Sherwood and the government's response to this tragedy.

I talked to them about my son, Sherwood – and why he had joined the National Guard. He mainly joined because he was community minded – there were floods in Wilkes Barre, PA and he was helping the recovery, loading sandbags along with National Guardsmen. He was inspired by them, and felt like they were invested in taking care of the community. So he joined the Guard. With everything that is happening in New Orleans, I have been wondering – if he were still here, and his Guard Unit were in New Orleans instead of Iraq - would he have saved a life? Would he have saved a home?

To read more reports from the road, go to our website

We're reminded of how many people are affected by this war at every stop along the way. Yesterday in Amherst, Massachusetts, Joyce and Kevin Lucey, who's son Jeffrey committed suicide after returning from Iraq in June of last year, were approached by a young man who happened to be passing by Camp Casey on the Amherst Common. He shared the story of his brother, who also committed suicide after his tour of duty, and after talking with the Luceys he returned to his car to get a pair of his brother's boots, which he added to the memorial.

Sharing Al Zappala's story, and the Lucey's story, and now this young man's, are the reason we've been on the road for the past two weeks. You can help by telling your friends and neighbors about this tour - click here for some ideas on how to spread the word.

Thank you for support,
The Bring Them Home Now Tour
www.BringThemHomeNowTour.org

PS We're grateful to all of you who have helped make this tour happen. If you haven't made a contribution to help pay for tour expenses, please stop by the website and give today.