



Anti-War Committee

For Immediate Release

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Iraq War National Guard Veteran to Speak at Press Conference

State Senator, Pennsylvania Coalition to tell Democrats: Keep the Guard Home

Helen Gerhardt, who served for over a year in Iraq as a soldier with the Army National Guard and is now a University of Pittsburgh graduate student, will be speaking at the Saturday press conference on keeping the National Guard home, in a growing regional movement.

- WHAT:** Press Conference to Announce State-wide Campaign to Bring the Guard Home
- WHO:** State Senator Jim Ferlo, peace groups across Pennsylvania
- WHEN:** Saturday, August 9, 4pm
- WHERE:** David Lawrence Convention Center, room 307, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd, Pittsburgh

"We have strained and stretched Guard volunteers who have given far more than ever should have been asked of them," said Gerhardt, who drove trucks in Iraq with a Missouri National Guard unit. "Many of the men and women that I served with lost their jobs, their farms, their small businesses, and sometimes their families. The PA Guard should serve our safety right here in Pennsylvania, here in the country they have loved enough to lay down their lives for."

Organizers will drive from Erie and the Philadelphia area to join the press conference. "Bring all of the National Guard Units home now and take care of them so they can take care of you," said David Thomas of Veterans for Peace, Southwestern PA. The community coalition launching the petition campaign includes Gold Star Families Speak Out Pittsburgh and over a dozen other groups.

State Senator Jim Ferlo (D-Lawrenceville) plans to impress on the Democratic Party's National Platform Committee the importance of keeping the National Guard home. He will announce a PA Senate bill that will limit the Pennsylvania Guard to service within the state, unless called into federal service following a congressional declaration of war or a duly enacted federal statute. A similar bill in the house (HB 2402), introduced by Rep. Tony Payton (D-Philadelphia), has 18 co-sponsors.

For More Info: **State Senator Jim Ferlo, Lawrenceville, PA. 412-621-3006,**
David Gibson, PA For Peace Action, Lansdowne, PA. 609-712-6469
Richard McVay, Erie Peace Initiative. 786-351-0303

www.PittsburghEndTheWar.org

This campaign is part of a rapidly growing national movement of state legislators and citizens. Pennsylvania is now in the lead of states that now includes Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

For More Info: www.BringTheGuardHome.org

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