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Coffins Containing Names of War Dead to be Delivered to Sens. Voinovich and DeWine on Good Friday

Coffins containing the names of more than 11,500 US and Iraqi persons who have died since the beginning of the US invasion of Iraq will be delivered on Good Friday, March 25, to the Cleveland offices of US Senators George Voinovich and Mike DeWine.

A very short reflection will take place outside the Cleveland Federal Building, 11240 E. 9th St., at 10 am before delivering one coffin to Senator Voinovich's office inside. The procession will continue on to Senator DeWine's office to deliver the second coffin with names.

The names and coffins will be presented by representatives of the Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and People for a Change, two Akron-based groups.

The names of all 1521 US military personnel killed in Iraq over the past two years and more than 10,000 Iraqis killed were publicly read at the Federal Building in downtown Akron on March 19 by nearly 200 people to mark the two-year anniversary of the start of the US invasion and war of Iraq. The Iraqi names total less than 10% of all Iraqis killed in Iraq (100,000), according to an article published last year in a British medical journal, The Lancet.

"We deliver these names of dead US and Iraqi human beings to Senators Voinovich and DeWine today as a symbol of the human costs of the war and occupation in Iraq, a military action that both Senators supported in the name of ridding Saddam Hussein of what turned out to be nonexistent weapons of mass destruction," said Priscilla Smith, Clerk of the AFSC and member of People for a Change. "We think Good Friday is an appropriate day to make this presentation. We hope both Senators will come to see that the ever-expanding human and financial costs of this war are not worth it."

AFSC is a Quaker-related social action organization and recipient of the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize. People for a Change is an Akron-based grassroots group that addresses the Iraq war, civil liberties, and election reform.

For more information, contact AFSC at 330-253-7151.

30