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## Anti-war vigil marks 2,000th military death Photos of Ohioans displayed; candles, shoes honor Iraqi dead



By Sandra M. Klepach  
Beacon Journal staff writer

Two thousand tea lights fill a shopping cart.

And two thousand days stretch back to early May 2000.

"We were hoping this day would never come," said Joe Mosyjowski of the American Friends Service Committee. "But we're not talking about days and candles. We're talking about 2,000 people."

About 50 residents braved chilly weather Wednesday night to light the candles in downtown Akron to remember the 2,000 U.S. troops who have died in the Iraq war.

Candles surrounded a pile of shoes to represent the 100,000 or so Iraqi casualties. The candles also lined a stone wall in front of the Akron Federal Building that was covered with black-and-white pictures of the 98 Ohioans killed.

Similar vigils organized by the committee's "Not One More Death. Not One More Dollar" campaign were held in other cities, including Canton and Kent.

Former English teacher Carol Zeh of New Franklin attended the vigil at Main and Market streets in Akron to remember a former student, Army Staff Sgt. Richard P. Ramey.

"I'm here for him," Zeh said. "He was an absolutely wonderful kid. Now all we have is his memory."

Standing outside the group in his fatigue jacket, former National Guardsman Chad Salamon, 25, of Ravenna, felt concern for his friends overseas. "The only way we can support our troops is to bring an end to what has caused so much pain and suffering to them," he said.

His wife, Jessica, felt a sense of relief, guilt and frustration. "It's only pure luck he's not one of those candles," she said.



Sandra M. Klepach can be reached at 330-996-3746 or [sklepach@thebeaconjournal.com](mailto:sklepach@thebeaconjournal.com)