

RESOLUTION 963

RESOLUTION ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

WHEREAS, March 19, 2008, is the fifth anniversary of the ongoing war in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, many of our relatives, friends and neighbors in the State College area have been among the hundreds of thousands of troops sent to fight in this war; and

WHEREAS, almost 4000 American servicemen and servicewomen, including eight residents of Centre County, have died in the war and many thousands more come home injured; and

WHEREAS, the exhaustive use of our local National Guard units and equipment in Iraq has diminished local availability of first responder personnel; and

WHEREAS, at the current rate of \$275 Million a day, the total financial cost of the war is approaching half a trillion dollars; and the financial cost of the war to residents of State College Borough is estimated at more than 31 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, this huge expenditure is distorting the economy, creating enormous debt which will financially hobble our country for decades to come, causing additional hardship to our citizens by reducing federal funding for healthcare, transportation, education and other critical areas, as well as a reduction in funds available to local governments like ours for local services; and

WHEREAS, it is a most sacred obligation of our civilian leaders to put our brave and loyal troops in harm's way only as a last resort and only when our country is in mortal danger,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of State College that:

1. That the State College Borough Council honors the sacrifices of its residents, and the residents of its surrounding communities, who have died, been injured, or otherwise had their lives disrupted by their service to our country both in Iraq and Afghanistan;
2. That the State College Borough supports the safe return of all our troops from Iraq as expeditiously as possible; and
3. That the State college Borough Council recognizes the State College Peace Center for organizing a vigil marking the fifth anniversary of the war at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at the corner of College Avenue and Allen Street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to President George W. Bush, Senator Arlen Specter, Senator Robert Casey, and Representative John Peterson.

RESOLVED this 17th day of March, 2008.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE

S/Cynthia S. Hanscom
Assistant Borough Secretary

S/Elizabeth A. Goreham
President of Council

Mayor Bill Welch declined to sign this resolution.