

Subject: Granny D: A National New Year's Resolution

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From: Dennis Burke <burke@fastq.com>

To: Dennis Burke <burke@fastq.com>

Speech

(Doris "Granny D" Haddock asked me to send this your way --Dennis)

Dear Friends,

Millions of Americans are disturbed by the Bush Administration's headlong rush to invade Iraq, when war can clearly be avoided. Millions are concerned that we are rushing towards an unnecessary war instead of adequately dealing with our economic crisis and the genuine threats posed by terrorism.

In the proud history of our nation, ordinary citizens and residents of the United States have often acted in defense of our families, our friends, and our values at times when our leaders would not.

Now we must do so again. Though we are being told to expect military action in Iraq as early as late January, we can still act to prevent a disastrous war from happening.

You can help by signing the following letter to President Bush (<http://www.AmericanTownHall.org>). Then, spend just a few minutes forwarding this e-mail to your friends and family, asking them to sign as well. We will deliver this letter to President Bush, with your signature and the signatures of thousands like you. We will publicize the broad public opposition toward a war on Iraq and support for real solutions to the problems our nation faces.

When enough of us raise our voices through simple actions such as these, we will keep this unnecessary war from happening. Please sign. (<http://www.AmericanTownHall.org>).

Sincerely,

Dennis Burke, Executive Director
Citizens for Participation in Political Action

----- The Letter: -----

A National New Year's Resolution

Dear President Bush:

Throughout our history, Americans from all walks of life have stood with clear voices and courageous actions to defend our nation, our peoples, and the values we hold dear.

Now, on the brink of a US war on Iraq, we stand in defense once again. It was President John F. Kennedy who said: "The United States, as the world knows, will never start a war." American values do not admit of any plan to start a war where one can be avoided, or to knowingly provoke war. Alongside the Bill of Rights and our commitment to freedom, these values help form the bedrock of our national consciousness and our democracy.

Our present emergency, Mr. President, is this, that there are powerful people in your administration who will not act by or defend these most basic

and historic principles. As they push for a war on Iraq, no matter what the circumstances or consequences, they violate the American spirit and bring dishonor and danger upon our nation. They endanger our rights, they endanger our cities, and they endanger the lives of our families.

this administration has its way
If ~~these people~~ in your administration have their way, those in our armed forces - our sons and daughters, our sisters and brothers, our dearly held friends - will be placed unnecessarily in harm's way.

If these people in your administration have their way, our families will be ever more at risk, for if our foreign adversaries believe they must strike first at us before we strike first at them, neither our homes nor our homeland will ever again be secure.

If these people have their way, our nation will be distracted from the crucial task of defeating terrorism, a task that requires the collective action of the international community.

If these people have their way, our nation will be distracted from solving our economic crisis during this time of increasing unemployment, shrinking access to healthcare, and severe cutbacks to our education system - the guarantor of our national future.

If these people have their way, the Constitutional protections that have stood between us individuals and the overwhelming power of government will be taken down, as they are now being taken down.

President Bush, there is far greater security for our country when the world believes that we strive first and always for peace, and move toward war only when all peace fails. There are good alternatives to the policies advocated by the extremists in your administration, alternatives that will truly increase our security and meet the needs of our people.

Representatives of the United Nations are now combing through Iraq. They can stay as long as necessary and muster all the power necessary to peacefully eliminate Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. They are doing now in peace what our soldiers could do only with a great and unnecessary loss of life.

Mr. Bush, let the United Nations inspectors continue their work unimpeded and unscorned by us. Let us stand behind them with our full strength and resources to assure their success. Let us not act the part of a power-drunk fool loose in the world.

Let us redouble our efforts to work with the international community to solve the problems of terrorism and global security. Let us be guided in these efforts by our commitment to a democratic and just foreign policy that supports the missions that have long been in our American hearts - for democracy, freedom and economic justice in the Middle East and around the world.

Let us encourage truly democratic forces in Iraq and throughout the Middle East (rather than unrepresentative factions) and end our support for corrupt and authoritarian regimes. Let us work tirelessly for a lasting resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict--a solution that guarantees the rights of security and self-determination for Palestinians and Israeli Jews alike.

And at home, Mr. Bush, let us spend no less energy and resources addressing the urgent needs facing our people in this time of economic crisis. We need to help those who cannot find work and those who are struggling to meet life's daily needs -- not those whose children's inheritance might be reduced from \$100 million to \$95 million.

The security interests of America and of Americans are to be found only upon this road to national and international justice. America's great strength must be used for good, not for exploitation and narrow self-interest. The

world is too small now for any other policy.

Finally, President Bush, we remind you that you have sworn on the Bible to defend our Constitution and its Bill of Rights. To do otherwise is a crime under our laws, which no man is above. The full application of the rights enshrined in our Constitution and expanded through its Bill of Rights and other amendments to all the peoples of our nation must be our policy at home, or else there is no freedom worth defending.

This is the true measure of our freedom, a freedom worth defending.

Signed:

(To add your name or your organization's name, go to
<http://www.AmericanTownHall.org>
