

Submitted by Stephen Lee, Member of the New Hanover County Democratic Party and Secretary/Treasurer of NHC Democratic Party Wilmington 16 Precinct, on April 4, 2005

The following resolution is submitted for consideration at the New Hanover County Democratic Party Convention:

**Resolution of the New Hanover County Democratic Party (Party)
Concerning the North Carolina National Guard and the War in Iraq**

Whereas, the Party strongly supports the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and recognize the sacrifices that each of them is making. The Party stands ready to help these North Carolinians in any way they can.

Whereas, in October 2002 the United States Congress adopted a Joint Resolution to Authorize the use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq, relying on statements that were untrue, when in fact the United States:

- was not threatened with attack by Iraq,
- Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction,
- Saddam Hussein had no role in the 9/11 attacks.

Whereas, in going to war, the President did not meet the conditions imposed by Congress, failing to show Congress why he:

- decided that diplomatic or peaceful means alone would not protect the national security of the United States or lead to enforcement of Security Council resolutions on Iraq,
- why he decided that going to war was a necessary action against Iraq on the theory - never proven -- that Iraq authorized, committed, or aided in the 9/11 attacks.

Whereas, the war has resulted in serious and potentially long-lasting consequences for the United States and for the chances for a just and durable peace in Iraq and the Mideast;

Whereas, the United States Constitution provides that Congress shall have the power to "provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, to suppress insurrections and repel Invasions," and the North Carolina Constitution provides for the General Assembly to direct the training and arming of members of the North Carolina National Guard for defense of the State;

Whereas, at least since 1986 the President and the Congress have had nearly total control over state militias, including the North Carolina National Guard;

Whereas, the costs of the call-up of North Carolina National Guard members for

deployment in Iraq has been significant, as reckoned in lost lives, combat injuries, psychic trauma, disruption of family life, financial hardship for individuals, families, and businesses, interruption of careers, and damage to the fabric of civic life in many North Carolina communities;

Whereas, these are costs which would be suffered willingly were there a threat to our nation, but which are not tolerable where there is none;

Whereas, North Carolinians have joined the Guard thinking that they would be serving their neighbors by helping with North Carolina-based emergencies, unless there was a danger to America requiring transfer to active duty;

Whereas, stop-loss orders violate the mutual understanding between North Carolinians in the Guard and the state and nation they agreed to serve; and

Whereas, there is reason to believe that the federalization and deployment of North Carolina National Guard members has rendered the remaining Guard force unable to carry out its state activities effectively;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY:

Resolved, that the Party requests the members of North Carolina's Congressional Delegation to urge Congress to restore the balance between the federal government and the states, limiting the nearly complete federal control over State National Guard units to cases: where there is reasonable evidence that war powers are requested in order to protect against a threat to the territory of the United States, where there is an insurrection or a plausible threat of insurrection; or where there is a declaration of war under the United States Constitution;

Resolved, that the Party requests the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, exercising its powers to: investigate and discuss whether members of the North Carolina National Guard have been called to active service and assigned to duties relating to the war in Iraq in conformity with the U.S. Constitution and federal laws, including the 2002 Congressional Resolution on Iraq; and create a commission or other body to collect statutory, historical, and statistical information about the role of the National Guard in serving the State of North Carolina and to study the impact of the federalization and deployment of its members on the ability of the Guard to perform its mission in North Carolina;

Resolved, that the President and the Congress take steps to withdraw American troops from Iraq, consistently with the mandate of international humanitarian law; and

Resolved, that the Secretary of the Party send a copy of this Resolution to each member of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation, the North Carolina Governor, and the North Carolina Democratic Party