

LETTERS

COLUMN LEFT

Ideas for the Cerritos Sculpture Garden

By Alon Barlevy, PhD., President, Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club

The city of Cerritos is currently in the planning process of building a sculpture garden on the lawn area at the southwest corner of the city's Civic Center. While some sculptures have already been determined, the city's Fine Arts and Historical Commission is seeking ideas for additional sculptures.

It would have been great if there were great successes in the war in Iraq that could proudly be commemorated in a statue, similar to the very famous statue commemorating the raising of the flag on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima during a battle in World War II. The sad fact is that the most memorable thing from the war in Iraq is the conscious efforts of the Bush administration to suppress information about the war from the American public.

In order to suppress the war's financial impacts, the administration is financing the war with deficit spending. Rather than force the current generation of taxpayers to pay for the \$1 billion per week war, the administration is giving current taxpayers huge tax cuts (especially for the wealthiest taxpayers). This shifts the burden to future generations of taxpayers, who cannot vote on the current war (don't Republicans have compassion for the unborn?).



Photo from the National Security Archive at <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB152/>

To suppress the impacts of the human cost of the war, the administration does not allow releasing photographs of coffins coming back from Iraq. In fact, last year, when an employee of defense contractor Maytag Aircraft Corp took photos of flag-draped coffins being prepared for transport back home, she was swiftly fired under pressure from the Pentagon. More recently, the Bush administration was forced to release photos of flag-draped coffins under the Freedom of Information Act. In the released photos, the Pentagon censored the faces of the pallbearers.

There is absolutely no national security information in the faces of the troops. All American troops, regardless if they are pallbearers, are at risk in Iraq!

Perhaps the city of Cerritos can erect a statue to commemorate this photo released by the Pentagon, along with the inscription: "Burying Democracy Along with the Casualties from Iraq."

Photo used in Article



Caption: Photo taken from the National Security Archive at <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB152>

Text of Article

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Alon Barlevy, PhD.
President, Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club

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