

“TAX DAY” VIGIL

by Nancy Tsou

Rockland Coalition for Peace and Justice

Front row: Nancy Tsou (far lt), Ethan Vesely-Flad (far rt) and Stan Morris (2nd from rt); image by Len Tsou, Rockland Coalition for Peace & Justice.

Dear vigilers,

Thanks to the twenty two vigilers who took time during the busy mid-day to join our Tax Day vigil at the Rockland County Courthouse steps yesterday. Ethan (Vesely-Flad) invited two people (Stan Morris, IFOR Communications Officer, and Preston Davis, student / intern) from the FOR to attend. We had two big checks showing the war cost: a giant one by Patrick and a medium one by Cleta.

News12 came again this year to cover our Tax Day vigil. Our vigil was broadcasted in the evening news throughout last night. Len has taped this news for our record. Regrettably the Journal News did not come to cover our vigil, but only had a write up (4/14) on our reasons for Tax Day vigil.

At the vigil, a tea bagger wearing a red T-shirt “Rally for America” showed up. We were polite to him and tried to persuade him by answering his questions. He (Timmy Finn of Orangeburg) turned out to be in the photo of today’s Journal News article on the Tea Party rally.

After the Tax Day vigil, five of us went to our Sat. vigil site at 5 pm to hold a one-hour mini vigil standing on 3 corners with signs. We handed out the green checks showing the war cost. When we said to motorists “Your family has spent \$22,000 for the two wars,” they were stunned! We followed by saying “And we don’t have money for schools.” The motorists exclaimed, “How true this is!” “This is ridiculous!” “We got to end the wars!” and they thanked us profusely.

If the “draft” was a linchpin between the Vietnam war” and the American people, perhaps personal financial cost might be a linchpin to connect American people with the current wars. At least this

seems to be an effective starting point for working families to realize that the wars do affect them in a hidden but profound way.

You can see that our stand at the vigil plays an important role in spreading the message. Hope to see many of you at the vigil tomorrow!

Due to unknown problem of the Organize site, the vigil notes could not be sent to you. Peter is working on it. Since this site functions, I am sending you the vigil notes shown below. Please note that Alan and Mary will also show the film "The Weather Underground" at 10 am tomorrow at the FOR to accommodate our vigilers.

Finally, after receiving the Oliver Tambo Award from the President of South Africa, George and Jean Houser will stop by NY on their way home on May 1-3. Depending on the flight schedule, George plans to join our peace vigil on May 1st! Stay tuned.

Thanks,
Nancy

IFOR Communications Officer Stan Morris was invited by Ethan Vesely-Flad, FOR Communications Director, to participate in the Rockland Coalition for Peace & Justice "Tax Day" vigil on April 15, 2010 in New City, NY. Also a partner in the Third Annual Festival of Peace hosted by FOR USA in Nyack, RCP&J has held weekly anti-war vigils near Nanuet, NY since before the US invasion of Iraq.

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