



Rockland Coalition
for Peace & Justice

Sharing Common Ground

Source: "Soldiers and Protesters Seeking Common Ground" by Michael Winerip, New York Times, 1/25/09



← **Antiwar protesters being warmly greeted by Master Sgt. Minnie Hiller-Cousins at the National Guard Armory in Teaneck, N.J.**

Every Wednesday since August 2005, a peace vigil group has been protesting against the Iraq war in front of the National Guard Armory in Teaneck, N.J.

At first, the National Guard leaders were resentful of the protesters. "We felt they were picketing against us," said Sergeant Minnie Hiller-Cousins, who runs the family assistance program at the armory and has herself served in Iraq.

However, about once a month, members of the antiwar group go inside the armory building to donate diapers and groceries to the food pantry for Guard families who are struggling financially while their loved ones are in Iraq.

Many of the protesters are themselves veterans and speak respectfully of the military. Some have sons or daughters now serving in Iraq. One protester, John Fenton, lost his son to a suicide bomber in Falluja in 2006. Though sympathetic to U.S. soldiers, the antiwar group is firmly united in their opposition to the illegal and unnecessary war against Iraq.

"It took me awhile to see they're not protesting against us," said Sgt. Hiller-Cousins, as she warmly greeted members of the group at the armory food pantry.

Sgt. Hiller-Cousins said, **"A majority [of the National Guard family members] have the same view of the war that the American public has expressed in opinion polls — they're against it...but most are afraid to say it out loud."**

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS, BRING THEM HOME NOW!



Join 328th Peace Vigil to end the war!

Every Saturday, 1-3pm, at Rte. 59 & N. Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY

For info: www.rocklandaction.org

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