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For Immediate Release

Event: PPRC Friday Rally and March observe the Memorial Day weekend by renewing the call to bring the troops home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Date: Friday, May 27th, 2005

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

PPRC Friday Rally and March observe the Memorial Day weekend by renewing the call to bring the troops home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday rally and march will mark the beginning of the Memorial Day weekend with calls for an immediate withdrawal of US troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and improved care for veterans. "Bush will undoubtedly be making his usual platitudinal speeches honoring the fallen brave soldiers who have defended this country which, of course, is in sharp contrast to his policy of cutting benefits and pay for service people as well as under funding the Veterans Administration, and all this during a time of war," said Rob Ranta, a volunteer with PPRC. "Let's not forget also his refusal to attend any funeral of an Iraqi War Veteran or to allow the press to photograph the returning dead soldiers." Ranta said that the best way to support US soldiers is by bringing them home from Iraq, and by insisting that they not be deployed on the basis of lies and false claims of imminent threats from abroad. "The initiative to stop this war lies with us," said Ranta. "We are calling for an immediate withdrawal of the US troops from Iraq, we say bring them home now."

This week the House Rules Committee allowed Representative Lynne Woolsey to offer an amendment on Iraq to the Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 1815 - the National Defense Authorization Act for FY06) calling for the President to develop a plan for the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq and to submit a plan to the Congressional Defense Committees. If the Woolsey amendment had been adopted, it would have opened the debate about Iraq and how to move towards total Iraqi sovereignty and U.S. withdrawal. "This is an important effort in Congress to bring an end to the US occupation, to bring an end to this bloody conflict," said William Seaman, a volunteer with the PPRC. "People who care about the people of Iraq, people who care about the US soldiers being killed and injured in this misguided and criminal war, need to call their representatives in Washington and insist that they join these efforts to bring the troops home."