



## PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Nate Goldshlag  
Tel.: 781-643-3307  
Cell phone: 617-548-3588  
Email: [nateg@pobox.com](mailto:nateg@pobox.com)

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### **Veterans For Peace and others will demonstrate at Rep. Ed Markey's office to protest breaking of pledge**

#### **Markey signed pledge, now ignores it**

MEDFORD — Local members of the Smedley D. Butler Brigade Chapter 9 of Veterans For Peace, Arlington United For Justice With Peace (UJP), and others will demonstrate at Rep. Ed Markey's office in Medford Square at 4 p.m., Monday, March 26. After a two day occupation of his office, on February 22 Markey signed a pledge that said "I, Rep. Edward Markey, pledge to vote against the supplemental spending measure that President Bush will seek in 2007 from Congress to fund the war in and occupation of Iraq." On Friday Markey voted for \$100 billion in money to continue the war in Iraq until the Fall of 2008 as long as certain conditions are certified by President Bush.

"Markey has broken his pledge to us. Instead of being the leader he claims to be against the war, Markey and the Democratic Party have given George Bush authorization and funds to continue the war for another year and a half" said Nate Goldshlag, co-coordinator of the Smedley Butler Brigade. Goldshlag stressed that you cannot be against the war and vote funds to continue the war.

The occupation of Markey's office in February was part of a national effort called the Occupation Project, in which over hundreds of people have occupied offices of members of Congress to press for an end to funding for the war in Iraq. 234 people have been arrested to date when they refused to leave the offices.

"The American people have wanted withdrawal from Iraq to start for a long time now, yet the Democratic Party lags far behind. This supplemental spending bill will result in thousands more Americans and tens of thousands more Iraqis being killed, for cynical political reasons so that more Democrats are elected in 2008. Americans in November spoke loudly and wanted decisive actions to end the war and the Democrats are doing just the opposite," Goldshlag said.

Markey will be presented with a Certificate of Ownership in the war in Iraq, which says “You Bought It, You Own It.” The certificate comes with a warranty that with this purchase of the war comes a guarantee of the deaths of 3 U.S. troops and countless Iraqi children, women, and men every day, and the wounding of 500 U.S. troops per month.

The Smedley D. Butler Brigade Chapter 9 of Veterans For Peace was established in the mid-1980s and includes more than 100 Veterans from the Boston area who are involved in antiwar activities. The local chapter is part of the national Veterans For Peace and is named in honor of Marine Gen. Smedley D. Butler, the most decorated Marine in U.S. history, who turned against war and famously said “War is a racket. A few profit, the many pay.”

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For background information on the Occupation Project see:

<http://www.vcnv.org/project/the-occupation-project>

Web site of the Smedley D. Butler Brigade of VFP: <http://smedleyvfp.org>

National web site of Veterans for Peace: <http://veteransforpeace.org>