

**Requesting The New York State Legislature To Protect Our Veterans Returning From Their Tour Of Duty In Iraq By Passage Of The Connecticut Bill No. 1245 - An Act Concerning The Study Of The Health Effects Of Exposure To Hazardous Materials Including Depleted Uranium And Bill No. 6008: An Act Concerning Exposure To Depleted Uranium By Members Of The Armed Forces**

Legislators Zimet, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Maloney and Legislators Aiello, Alfonso, Bartels, Berardi, Busick, Cummings, Dart, DePew, Donaldson, Every, Feldmann, Felicello, Gerentine, Harris, Hathaway, Hyatt, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, McAfee, Meyer, Noonan, R.A. Parete, R.S. Parete, Provenzano, Roberti, Stock, Stoeckeler and Tipp offer the following:

WHEREAS, the New York National Guard members have returned from combat with Gulf War undiagnosed illnesses, and

WHEREAS, in August of 2004, "Gulf Era Veterans" now on medical disability since 1991 numbered 518,739 with only 7,035 reported wounded in Iraq in that same 14 year period, and

WHEREAS, the 105<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States passed Resolution No. 613 that urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to continue the close working relationship with the National Academy of Sciences in an effort to ascertain to which toxins Persian Gulf War period veterans were exposed to and what illnesses may be associated with such exposure, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature passed Resolution No. 188 dated May 13, 2004, requesting DOT to label Depleted Uranium shipments as "Radioactive" to protect our emergency responders in case of an accident during transport, and

WHEREAS, Arthur R. Snyder, Director of Emergency Communications and Emergency Management agrees in a memo dated May 12, 2004, "It is quite apparent there is a serious health issue associated with the use of this material (Depleted Uranium) in a battlefield setting," and

WHEREAS, soldiers who are in close contact with Depleted Uranium or who breath the vapors are, by growing numbers, coming home afflicted. They then, with close interaction, pass this on to their families, with the possibility of conveying the affliction to their children in the form of birth defects, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government is not following their own military protocol of testing returning soldiers and therefore not providing the adequate disability payments, and

Resolution No. 198 June 9, 2005

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WHEREAS, the Connecticut Bill is a “call to arms” to help veterans, soldiers, and their families who are now suffering from the effects of Undiagnosed Illnesses, and

WHEREAS, returning soldiers, most of who are National Guardsmen are not getting proper treatment from the Federal Government and will have to go on Medicaid, which will be a direct cost to the County of Ulster, and

WHEREAS, veterans who can not work will need unemployment, and

WHEREAS, veterans or active soldiers who will not be able to pay their mortgages due to their disabilities, will become homeless, and

WHEREAS, veterans’ children are being born with severe disabilities and will need special education, and

WHEREAS, Ulster County and New York State will be forced to incur costs that should be borne by the Federal government, and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut and the State of Louisiana have passed these bills and the bills are in various stages of review in Nevada, California, Montana, Minnesota, Vermont, Texas, New Hampshire and Oregon.

RESOLVED, that Ulster County requests that the Legislature of the State of New York adopt the Connecticut Bills, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature recognizes that the Country is at war and legislation supporting the troops health concerns is of utmost importance, and

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush, Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, United States Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer, United States Congressman Maurice Hinchey, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, the National Association of Counties and the New York State Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 33                      NOES: 0

Legislator Bartels motioned, seconded by Legislator Lomita to refer resolution to committee.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 9                      NOES: 23  
(AYES: Legislators Bartels, Cummings, DePew, Donaldson, Every, Kraft, Lomita, Loughran, R.S. Parete)  
(Legislator R.A. Parete left at 9:50 PM and returned at 9:55 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE