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Letter to the Editor
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Do all Americans truly love and respect our troops who are being sent to die on the battlefields of Saudi Arabia--or those troops who died in Vietnam and in Korea? I think not. One proof of this concerns the fact that those who are the most likely to die in this new war, are given the least opportunity to speak on their political views on the war--as if their views were of no value.

As one example, I have seen and heard hundreds of radio and television talk shows during this country's preparation and now the execution of war against Iraq. However, I have never seen or heard a single panelist or guest on these many shows who has ever served in combat (in any war) as a member of a US Infantry or Marine rifle squad. There ^{are} no officers in these units. Although rifle squads represent a tiny percentage of all those in the military, in combat they will suffer the bulk of the casualties. They will be sent to a real front line where they will stay without relief, months after months, until they are shot. If lucky, it will not be a mortal wound.

There are now thousands of soldiers in Desert Storm who have honored and completed the term of service that they signed for. They have served patriotically in the Panama war or wherever else they were sent. Now, because of politics, these soldiers are being forcibly kept in the service. Not once have we heard these voices. We are not being told the truth about our so called "volunteer military".

Meanwhile, on the home front we remain safe and undisturbed. No one is even asked for a minimum sacrifice to show support for our war problems. There has been no war tax, no energy policy to conserve gas and no fair military draft.

The soldiers who are being kept in the service against their will, come largely from poor families, often from cities where unemployment exceeds 30% among black teenagers. These young people who have joined the military just to get a job, will now fill a disproportionate number of all body bags because of another unfair burden that is visited upon them. That concerns the lack of a fair draft that would give everyone in this country an equal opportunity to die for their country.

A fair draft prior to the congressional vote for war, would very likely have caused the war advocates to fail in their campaign. A draft would have helped to bring home the reality of war to the middle class and to the rich. The rush to war would have slowed.

The political objectives of the average men and women in the military are very different to those of the generals and to those of the right wing politicians. The views of my infantry buddies, all killed in the Korean war, will never be expressed. It is sad that they will never have the opportunity to cast a vote in congress regarding the merits of sanctions, war, or peace.

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