



# CAPE COD TIMES

The Cape and Islands' Daily Newspaper • 2005

## Anti-war groups headed to D.C.

■ Two buses will take Cape Codders to the weekend-long protest and march.

By **MICHAEL HARTIGAN**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WASHINGTON — Diane Turco began with peace vigils on the Hyannis green to protest the war in Iraq. This weekend the Harwich resident, along with other Cape Codders, will carry that message to Washington, D.C.

Turco is associated with Cape Codders for Peace and Justice, a local group that is sponsoring two buses to the capital to attend a weekend-long war protest and march.

The event was largely put together by United for Peace and Justice, a national association of more than 1,300 local groups, including the one from the Cape. United for Peace and Justice leaders hope more than 100,000 people will attend.



**Diane Turco**

*"We vote, we pay taxes and we also have to have a voice."*

"We vote, we pay taxes and we also have to have a voice," said Turco, 51, a special-education teacher at Harwich Middle School. "We need to use our citizenship to take back this country that is ours."

Last night, two buses left for Washington. Other Cape Codders are driving or flying to Washington, Turco said.

"We've never had a response like this," said Turco, who helped coordinate travel from the Cape. In October 2002, the local group only filled half a bus headed to one of the first Washington rallies against the war in Iraq.

Over the summer Turco spent time in Crawford, Texas, with activist Cindy Sheehan, a lightning rod for antiwar sentiment, who will be in Washington.

This weekend will include a march and festival today, faith services and civil disobedience training tomorrow and lobbying and nonviolent civil resistance Monday.

"This could be a turning point," said Bill Dobbs, media coordinator for United for Peace and Justice.

On Monday, activists hope to meet with U.S. Rep. William Delahunt, a member of the Out of Iraq Caucus who voted against the congressional resolution authorizing the war.

"We have checks and balances and due process so that all perspectives are listened to," Delahunt said Wednesday.

"Clearly, there's a need for all of us to listen carefully here and to really take the responsibilities of citizenship."

The Cape Cod buses will include a diverse cross-section of activists, including a mother and daughter attending their first rally together and several war veterans.

Stephanie Wall, 67, a retired physician from Cotuit, has been attending antiwar rallies since the Vietnam era.

"I think the march is probably the most important thing in terms of the numbers," she said. "This war is the craziest war we've ever been involved in."

Charles Johnson, a 77-year-old Korean War veteran from Falmouth, opposes the war.

Johnson was involved in several small reconnaissance efforts in the Korean War. But one battle affected him more than others. It was in a valley where, as he recalled, tanks, troops and artillery were in such chaos that he could not discriminate between friend and enemy.

"I'll never forget it. It was terrifying, it was overwhelming," he said.

"When I heard them talking about shock and awe and the destruction they're going to cause in Iraq I thought, 'Oh my God, not again.'"

Michael Hartigan can be reached at [hartigan@bu.edu](mailto:hartigan@bu.edu).