

Cindy Sheehan Quits as Face of US Anti-War Fight

Tears crawled slowly down my cheek as I read of Cindy Sheehan's decision to give up her public position as "the face" of the peace movement in the United States. Each drop scorched my skin as the boiling rage within me spilled into the continuous flow of hurt and pain flooding souls of those who seek a better way.

Ms. Sheehan cannot be blamed for hitting the inevitable wall placed in the paths of so many people who give everything they have for peace. Returning home to recover some "of what she has lost" during the last two years of her encampment outside President George W. Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas; going to jail in Washington, D.C., in protest to the deaf Congress's refusal to listen to voices calling for an end to war; straining ties with her family as she committed her whole life to a mammoth campaign to help the blind see the obvious disaster, destruction, and deaths this senseless, misguided, and illegal war has wrought.

She chose to lift herself from the throes of brokenness and depression following the death of her soldier son, Casey, in 2003, to help the weak of spirit gain strength. She dared to believe in the possibility of goodness, righteousness, and an American people who cared about the world. She had the audacity to think we as a nation would put human life above fear, manipulation, and abuse of power.

Cindy Sheehan is a national shero who deserves more than mere platitudes and hypocritical, political rhetoric. As she expressed her disappointment in Democrats and Peaceniks who betrayed her love and trust in America and treated her badly when she retained her ethics and integrity regarding the need to make peace, she lost the will to keep going. More appropriately, in this marathon relay for a more just society and compassionate country, she has extended the baton handing it to others to carry on this important cause.

The irony of this special period of illegal aggression against a sovereign nation that had inferior defense systems, and its people who did not threaten or harm the United States prior to our pre-emptive attack, are the blatant arenas where humanitarian responses were desperately needed and although we have abundant resources, we did not provide for the most vulnerable in our midst. From the fires in Southern California to the hurricanes along the Gulf Coast, this great nation of high-technological advances failed to sufficiently rescue those placed directly in harm's way. It sent a chilling message, "You are on your own."

Perhaps that represents the most accurate but perverse reality consistent with our country today as we are willing to give our hearts, souls, money and the blood of our children to keep an unjust war raging.

I am sorry we did not follow Cindy Sheehan's example of a mother's love and a patriot's honor. We failed to convince our elected officials to act toward a more peaceful way. I am sorry Ms. Sheehan did not achieve her personal desire to end the war. But, I hope she will not be discouraged. Truth and goodness will prevail, even if it means America as she described it, "a fascist wasteland," will not reap the benefits and our children will suffer.

Thank you, Cindy Sheehan, for demonstrating courage and leadership. Thank you for caring so much and using your life as a model. You served us well. Go home, love your family, and get some rest.

Art Cribbs

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