

Watt, Foxx to go head-to-head over Iraq at Salem town hall



Watt

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

U.S. Reps. Mel Watt, a Democrat, and Virginia Foxx, a Republican, will participate in a town hall meeting on the war in Iraq on May 6 in Bryant Hall at Salem College. The meeting will be moderated by Wanda Starke of WXII. The event will take place at 7 p.m.

The meeting is co-sponsored by the Salem College Democrats and the Salem College Republicans, Watt,



Foxx

who represents the state's 12th District, and Foxx, the Fifth District representative, will present their positions on the war in Iraq and field questions and comments from the audience.

Each representative will begin by briefly presenting

their position on the war. A 45-minute question-and-answer session will follow the presentations. At the end, each representative will make concluding remarks.

The Salem College Democrats and Salem College Republicans are

holding this event in an attempt to increase awareness of and dialogue about the War in Iraq. It is also designed to help increase active political participation among college students.

This event is free and open to the public.



Photo by Felicia McMillan

Liberians and their supporters were on hand Sunday.

Liberians

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several thousands of Liberians on Temporary Protective Status (TPS) are expected to be deported to Liberia," Wettee said. "At this point in our history, we must partner with one another and chain our resources to protect the expected thousands of Liberians to be deported."

According to Wettee, most of the Liberians facing deportation have relatives, family members and friends in Iraq and Afghanistan who are risking their lives for security in America. Thousands of them, Wettee added, contribute to their local communities by working, owning properties, supporting socioeconomic improvements and volunteering their services and raising their families.

"A huge number of the children of those targeted for deportation are not only legal U. S. citizens, but are deeply entrenched in the educational institution and other activities," said Wettee. "Uprooting these families will be a disaster of unimaginable proportions . . . The challenge of ensuring the passage of the bill can be termed as one of the greatest . . . foreign policy challenges of our generation . . . Our people are threatened with deportation come October 2, 2007."

The Liberian Organization of the Piedmont (LOP), hosted the rally, and more than 250 members of the ULAA and other supporters of the Liberian cause attended. ULAA Southern Regional Vice President and President of the LOP James Y. Hunder, Sr. recognized the tireless support that State Rep. Larry Womble has given to the support of the Liberian immigration bill.

Wettee said elected officials of all stripes are on the Liberians' side, including U.S. Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, which has the largest population of Liberians in the nation.

Womble, who has been involved with the LOP for many years, recognized Sid Kelly and Wayne Patterson for their support of the LOP.

Patterson, an attorney who handles immigration cases, has helped many Liberians to secure VISAs and green cards. Kelly has also been a longtime advocate for the Liberian struggle.

"We solicit help in our struggle. This struggle is not just about Liberia. This is a struggle for doing what is right. Passing this bill is simply the right thing to do," said Womble. "We need more than just Liberians to help us with this. We need everybody to help us."

Wettee challenged the audience to call, e-mail, fax or write letters to senators and members of the House of Representatives to ask them to support the bill. He encouraged them to contact their family members and friends and ask them to call their respective lawmakers. He called for unity among all Liberian organizations and churches in America. He asked them to network with other organizations with immigration interests to help rally for support of the bill.