

Dear Laura,

I hope you don't mind me calling you that - but on this day I just wanted to speak to you woman to woman, mother to mother. You see this war has really gone too far. I don't know if you read the newspapers, I know George has said he doesn't bother and the TV may be too busy with the Avian flu to really make it clear but the numbers tell the story. The numbers are brutal: 2,404 killed in Iraq, 280 killed in Afghanistan, 18,582 injured and that doesn't count the rising suicide rate of soldiers, the tens of thousands psychologically damaged by what they have seen, what they have done. And then there are the one hundred thousand plus Iraqi civilians killed - nobody mentions them. War is "messy" as Rummy said - but to those who have lost their kids, wives, mothers, fathers, husbands - it's way more than "messy" .

So, I'm giving you all the benefit of the doubt. Maybe you and George didn't realize just how horrific things have gotten. Since he never served in a war, skipped out on his duties state side and only got to play dress up on the Mission Accomplished photo op - maybe he just doesn't get what's at stake here. I know he doesn't want to see flag - draped coffins or attend the funerals of the fallen - that would be so uncomfortable - but if he did, it might just slow down his next invasion. It might start a real conversation about the withdrawal of our troops, who right now are so busy trying to stay alive that they really don't have the time and man power to do much spreading of democracy.

So Laura this is what I'm suggesting, just to get you up to speed with some of the other mothers in the country, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, those whose kids are stuck over in Iraq and Afghanistan in harms way.

Have George put his uniform back on - he'll like that part and send him with the men in dress whose unfortunate job it is to notify those moms - standing in their kitchens, working in their gardens, setting their tables for dinner; those, moms trying to distract themselves from the ever present dread, those moms praying as they wait for the phone to ring and they hear the voice of their child serving in Iraq. Let him be the one to tell them that this week the call will not be coming. neither will the letter - ever. And then let him explain to them-why they have made the ultimate sacrifice. Maybe then he will understand why wars are usually not preemptive, why wars are to be avoided and

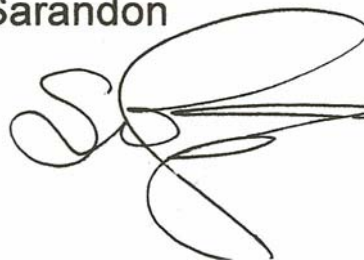
entered into only when absolutely necessary. You can wait for him in the car. He might be needing a hug.

Now if George can't find the time for that, I know its hard splitting your time between President stuff and vacations in Crawford, I've enclosed with my letter a little gift. It's a board game calked Risk - the game of global domination. He and Rummy, Condi and Dick can play it together and practice war strategies. They can see what happens when, for instance, you put all your troops in one country and then try to invade another country, or what happens when you don't secure your borders or just have too few troops. Especially since they don't listen to the pros, the military men who have actually been in war, who have actually seen how war works who have seen death, it might give The Decider a way to figure things out without using our kids as the pawns.

I guess that's about it Laura, just tell him we don't want our kids to die or the kids in Iraq to die. We don't want our kids to come home damaged from having killed. We really don't. Or as Julia Ward Howe said on the first Mother's bay:

Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

Susan Sarandon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Sarandon". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large loop at the end.