

Flags fly in wave of support

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A thousand American flags mysteriously appeared yesterday morning in front of homes and businesses along SOM Center, Aurora, Pettibone and Liberty Rds. roads in Solon.

Several homeowners called Solon City Hall and were told that the 12-by-16 inch flags were put there by employees of Century 21, Kriss & Associates on Aurora Rd.

One special admirer of the flags was Nanette Phillippi of Aurora. She was driving to her hostess job at the Chagrin Valley Hunt Club in Gates Mills when she spotted the flags. She stopped to take a picture for her son, Spec. Charles Armour, 20, of Savannah, Ga., who is stationed with the Army in Saudi Arabia.

"He will just love this show of support," she said. "I have mixed feelings about him being there. I worry constantly for his safety and yet I think I know why we are there."

The flag idea came from real estate agent Luann Ehrenbeit, according to office manager, Edele Jones.

"We had a planning session Tuesday afternoon and tossed around ideas of how to support President Bush," Jones said. "Every year at either Memorial Day or Fourth of July, we place flags. Luann suggested we place the flags immediately and so we did."

News of war hangs over performance The crowd was large at the Cleveland Institute of Music last night for a performance by the Cavani String Quartet, Quarter, but it was hard to concentrate on the music. By the time they arrived at the concert hall, most people were aware that combat in the Persian Gulf had begun.

And if they didn't, they heard about it from the radio at the guard's desk in the lobby. The radio also was playing as concert-goers departed, too, the wonderful strains of Mozart dissolving into talk of missile strikes and death from the sky.

War memories still haunt former nurse Martha McCrary was a chief nurse in England on D-Day D-day and she vividly remembers looking into the sky and not being able to see it. "You could only see airplanes."

Then there was "a horrible noise," and McCrary, then a lieutenant colonel in the Army, stood in silence with a few comrades and cried as the Allies invaded Europe in World War II.

As she recounted the events of June 6, 1944, McCrary, now a Mayfield Heights councilwoman, began to cry. "I can't talk about it without getting emotional," said dsaid the former director of nursing at Brecksville Veterans Administration Hospital. "It was terrible. I know what war can do and it's awful," she said.

Peace activists plan demonstration Local peace activists are planning a protest for today at 4 p.m. at Public Square.

Todd Strickland, director of program and communications for SANE/FREEZE, one of the groups planning the rally, said he expected about 1,000 people to attend.

"Our phones have been ringing off the hook all day today and actually every day this week," Strickland said last night.

SANE/FREEZE will ask Mayor Michael R. White and the Cleveland police for help to ensure that the protest remains peaceful. The group does not advocate flag burning, he said.

"I think the most patriotic thing we can do to support our troops is to call for them to come home alive, not in body bags," said Kathleen Corcoran, executive director of SANE/FREEZE.

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