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Contact: Angela Kelly, 508.345.4699 cell
Shelagh Foreman, 617.417.5898 cell

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Massachusetts Peace Action Remembers Senator Edward Kennedy:
A Leader of the Nuclear Freeze and Prominent Advocate for Peace**

Massachusetts Peace Action joins with fellow constituents across the Commonwealth and allies around the world in remembering Senator Edward Kennedy, a tireless leader for peace, human rights, and nuclear disarmament. As a dedicated ally to Peace Action, Senator Kennedy long decried the recklessness of war and nuclear weapons, emerging as the Congressional leader of the Nuclear Freeze campaign, from which Peace Action was born. The support and collaboration Senator Kennedy and his staff extended on so many occasions are deeply appreciated by the Peace Action community, which offers our sincere sympathies to his family and loved ones.

Senator Kennedy's work for peace spans the many years he served in the Senate. From advocating for the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in the 1970s to introducing the Nuclear Freeze amendment to halt the nuclear arms race between the U.S. and Soviet Union in the 1980s, from leading the ratification efforts for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in the 1990s to opposing the unjust and disastrous invasion of Iraq in more recent years, he has consistently worked for cooperative security and more just and peaceful foreign policies.

In debating against funds for a new generation of "mini-nukes" in 2003, Senator Kennedy effectively argued, "You're either for nuclear war, or you're not. We don't want it anywhere, anytime, anyplace... No Congress should be the Congress that says, 'Let's start down this street,' when it's a one-way street that can lead only to nuclear war." With support from Peace Action, the peace movement, and his allies in Congress, Senator Kennedy won that vote and successive battles against new nuclear weapons spending.

Of his vote against authorizing an invasion of Iraq, he declared, "My vote against this misbegotten war is the best vote I have cast in the United States Senate since I was elected in 1962." Senator Kennedy continued to cast many more anti-war votes in Congress and has led efforts toward reconciliation, reconstruction, and the resettlement of Iraqi refugees. His Boston staff warmly received a delegation of Iraqi labor leaders that Mass Peace Action helped host in 2007, just one of the many occasions where the Senator's concern for Iraqi civil society and for all who suffer the effects of violence, oppression, and injustice was powerfully evident. He has also extended this compassion to U.S. veterans and military families who, along with civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan, have been devastated by these wars.

As we mourn this great loss, Mass Peace Action calls upon members and friends to honor Senator Kennedy's legacy by advancing the causes he championed. A world at peace and without nuclear weapons is crucial to his dream that must not die. His enduring inspiration will help make this dream a reality, as Peace Action and allies work for the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the passage of international agreements to eliminate nuclear weapons, and swift, just, and peaceful resolutions to the U.S. conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

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Massachusetts Peace Action is the state affiliate of Peace Action, the nation's largest peace & disarmament organization, with 100,000 members nationwide. Learn more at Peace-Action.org.