

Interestingly, Oprah Winfrey, who keeps turning up, has been a model. Winfrey has inspired African women to rebel against rape and kidnap, to defy misogynistic laws and to face up to the ravages of AIDS.

It is both sobering and exciting to realize that American women, having been taught much by the civil rights movement, can inspire African women by example, and that elected or appointed African officials can lead the way through the ingrained ignorance, poverty and disease that block human fulfillment. Such human force explains the mystery of African optimism.

#### REMEMBERING HARRY PARRISH

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to remember Mr. Harry Parrish, member of the Virginia General Assembly and decorated World War II pilot from Manassas, VA, who passed away on March 28 at the age of 84.

Harry Parrish served over 50 years in elected office, including 13 terms in the House of Delegates and chairman of the Finance Committee since 2000, Manassas council member, and mayor. At the time of his passing, he was the oldest serving member of the House of Delegates. During his 12 years as town councilman and 18 years as mayor, Harry helped guide the transformation of Manassas from a small Virginia town to a thriving, lively suburb. As a member of the House of Delegates, he was known for conducting himself in a bipartisan manner, putting Virginia first. I was proud to call Harry my friend. He was a true Virginia gentleman.

Harry was also a decorated World War II pilot. As part of the British Royal Air Force he flew C-47s over the Himalayas delivering supplies, weapons and other cargo, from India to China. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his valiant efforts. He served as a reservist in the Korean and Vietnam wars before retiring as a colonel.

I insert for the RECORD the Potomac News obituary from March 28. A northern Virginia native, Harry will be deeply missed by the people of Manassas, and at home by his family and wife, Mattie, of 62 years.

[From the Potomac News, Mar. 28, 2006]

HARRY PARRISH DIES AT 84

(By Bob Lewis)

RICHMOND, VA—Harry Parrish, who defied death as a decorated World War II pilot and headed the state's most powerful tax-writing panel in the General Assembly, died Tuesday. He was 84.

Parrish had been in intensive care at Prince William Hospital for about three weeks, suffering from pneumonia. His death was announced by Sen. John Chichester during a meeting of the Senate Finance Committee on Capitol Square.

Parrish had been in declining health for at least two years but continued a full legislative schedule, including acting as chairman of the House Finance Committee, one of the most powerful leadership positions in the General Assembly.

Last year, Parrish warded off a Republican primary challenge for his House seat—payback from his party's own conservative wing for defying its anti-tax orthodoxy during the 2004 tax battle.

Parrish, the House of Delegates' oldest member, was in his 13th term from Manassas.

He was born Feb. 19, 1922, in Fairfax County and moved as a child with his family to Manassas, then a small, rural town. He graduated from Osbourn High School in 1940 and later from Virginia Tech.

He joined the Army Air Force in 1942 and began pilot training in Alabama, but was assigned to the British Royal Air Force, where he completed his training.

He was part of an allied mission to fly lumbering transport planes laden with heavy supplies, weapons and ammunition from India into China over the world's highest mountain range, the Himalayas.

The C-47s like the one Parrish flew took off from crude, sometimes muddy airfields in the Indian jungles and struggled to heft their cargo over icy peaks that doomed many flights. Because Japan controlled land routes through Burma, the airlifts over what pilots called "the Hump" were the only way to supply the legendary Flying Tigers, which bombed Japan from bases in China.

Parrish received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He left active duty in 1946 but flew as an Air Force reservist in wars with Korea and Vietnam before retiring as a colonel and command pilot.

In 2002, as one of few remaining World War II veterans in the General Assembly, Parrish helped secure Virginia's \$334,000 contribution to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"I kind of regret us being the last state, but I'm glad we finally came around," Parrish said in an interview, pained that Virginia was the last state to contribute to the memorial.

Parrish was elected to the House in 1981 as part of an insignificant Republican minority. Before that, he served for 12 years on the Manassas Town Council and for 18 years as mayor. During his mayoral term, Manassas transformed from a town into a thriving, affluent city.

Through a total of 53 years in elected office, Parrish won abiding respect as a listener and problem solver from Republicans and Democrats. In 2000, when the GOP ended a century of Democratic dominance in the House, Parrish became co-chairman and later chairman of the Finance Committee, where his evenhandedness endeared him delegates and senators of both parties.

"He's my best friend," Democratic Sen. Charles J. Colgan of Prince William said in a 2004 interview. "He and I are the only Democrat and Republican in the General Assembly ever known to have held a fund raiser together."

Parrish was willing to exert his independence at times, even at the risk of his own party's wrath and his prized House leadership post.

By two votes, Parrish's committee in 2004 advanced a bill to increase taxes by about \$1.4 billion. When the bill came before the full House for a decisive vote that April, Parrish was among 17 Republicans who sided with House Democrats to pass it. The vote was critical to ending a 115-day session that divided GOP legislators.

In addition to his public duties, Parrish also is chairman of the board of his family's business, the Manassas Ice and Fuel Co.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS AMY DUERKSEN

### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to mourn the loss and honor the life of PFC Amy Duerksen, who died the 11th day of March 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Private Duerksen was no stranger to the United States Armed Forces. She was third-generation military. Her father is MAJ Douglas W. Duerksen, an Army chaplain at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, MD. Her grandfather, Wayne Duerksen, is a veteran of the Navy, having served in World War II. And her sister, April Duerksen, is also a member of the Army, stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

In April of last year, Amy joined the Fourth Combat Support Battalion, First Brigade, Fourth Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, TX. Her unit was deployed on Christmas Day. On the eighth day of March 2006, Private Duerksen suffered injuries in a noncombat-related incident, and she was not able to recover from those injuries.

She is remembered as a dedicated soldier who greatly loved her country and faithfully served her fellow Americans by fighting for this great nation. Private Duerksen was full of passion and life. She possessed a strong faith and willingly shared that with others.

Private Duerksen risked her life to serve our country. She deserves our unending admiration and appreciation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me in honoring the life of PFC Amy Duerksen. She was a remarkable soldier and patriot.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. CHAMBERS

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Michael J. Chambers, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the Brooklyn community.

Mr. Chambers joined the North Brooklyn Health Network in November 1998. As the senior associate executive director for the Department of Psychiatry, he is responsible for the operation of an extensive network of emergency, inpatient, and outpatient services to the residents of Bushwick, Bedford Stuyvesant, Fort Green, Williamsburg, and Greenpoint.

Prior to his service at the North Brooklyn Health Network, Mr. Chambers was the Administrator of the Department of Psychiatry at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in Queens. He was also instrumental in the development of its new Department of Psychiatry. Before pursuing a career in hospital administration, Mr. Chambers had a distinguished 14-year career with the New York State Office of Mental Health, New York City Regional Office, where he served as director of certification for New York City. He is an associate in the American

College of Healthcare Executives and is president and CEO of Integrated Behavioral Systems, Inc., a behavioral healthcare consulting firm.

Additionally, Mr. Chambers is an adjunct faculty member of the Department of Human Services at Touro College and earned his bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Albany and his masters of public administration degree from the Baruch College School of Business and Public Affairs. He is active in community affairs, particularly the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Babylon, NY.

Mr. Chambers lives on Long Island with his wife of 22 years, Peggy, and their four daughters Keri, Christine, Kimberly, and Meaghan. The Chambers family spent this past Thanksgiving at the Circle of Life Ministries in Copiague, NY, cooking and serving dinner to 600 individuals who would otherwise have had no place to celebrate the holiday.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Michael J. Chambers, as he offers his talents for the betterment of our local communities.

VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY: AGAIN,  
RESIGN FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR  
COUNTRY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce into the record an opinion piece by Eugene Robinson in the March 21, 2006, edition of *The Washington Post* entitled "The Planet of Unreality." Mr. Robinson opens his article by the statement: "This is not good." He is referring to the absolute detachment from reality evidenced by Vice President CHENEY most recently on the Sunday March 19, 2006, program "Face the Nation."

On "Face the Nation" Vice President CHENEY made the jaw-dropping statement that his earlier predictions about the war in Iraq including his infamous pre-invasion prediction that U.S. troops would be "greeted as liberators" and his more recent "the insurgency is in its last throes" were "basically accurate and reflect reality."

Let me second Mr. Robinson's statement: "This is not good." I can find nothing good about the lies, the deliberate effort made by the Vice President to connect the 9/11 attack to the war in Iraq, and the continued rosy pictures of the Iraq War the Vice President continues to make; statements that are unconnected to facts in any way. "This is not good."

The Vice President is either deliberately restating his opinions long-ago proved to be lies, or perhaps more frightening, he is now entirely in the grip of pathological self-delusion.

I believe the Vice President is continuing his lies and deceit with no care as to whether what he says is true, harmful to our country or deepens even more the profound distrust of the Bush Administration the American people have expressed. The Vice President hurts Americans in a variety of ways. This country, this shining democracy is being hurt, possibly, permanently, by just being the second in com-

mand and unaccountable to anyone in an unprecedented way. The fact that President George Bush does not fire him, hold him accountable, or contradict his false statements, creates the assumption on the part of the rest of the world that the U.S. is a rogue state with a Cheney-Bush regime bent on imposing its un-American policies of pre-emptive war, torture of prisoners, disregard of its Constitution and the will of its people. The statements and conduct of Vice President DICK CHENEY which can only be characterized as secretive, un-American and unconstitutional create the impression that the American people no longer care about their democracy. His conduct creates the impression that America is a dictatorship, or worse becoming a fascist state. The Vice President's intentional disregard of the Constitution, the Congress and the people of this great country sets the worst standard of conduct for the fledgling democracies the President states we must bring to every country in the world.

Mr. CHENEY's statements so contrary to the facts are far worse than merely confusing and dizzying; they are damaging and unmindful of the best interests of this country. Mr. CHENEY's reckless disregard for the truth is undermining the already low credibility and esteem in which our government is now held. When the Vice President undermines the credibility of our government he is also violating the Constitution of the United States which he is sworn to uphold.

It is no small thing for the Vice President of the United States to have the inglorious reputation of being the power behind the President's war conduct and treatment of prisoners, but to also be recognized as the American official who has most steadfastly insisted, contrary to the truth, that we went to war in Iraq because the attack of September 11, 2001 was carried out by terrorists trained, encouraged or given haven by Saddam Hussein.

I find the Vice President a source of deep embarrassment because of his persistent efforts on behalf of his agenda, his devotion to "the ends justify the means" mentality and his lack of acknowledgement of the deaths of 2,300 Americans, the wounding and maiming of 17,000 more and the tens of thousands of deaths and maiming of innocent Iraqi civilians.

It is clear to me that the Vice President should be removed from office if he does not have sufficient patriotism and good grace to resign for the good of the country. He is engaged in "business as usual" with no concern for how this "business" affects his country or the world.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 21, 2006]

THE PLANET OF UNREALITY

(By Eugene Robinson)

This is not good. The people running this country sound convinced that reality is whatever they say it is. And if they've actually strayed into the realm of genuine self-delusion—if they actually believe the fantasies they're spinning about the bloody mess they've made in Iraq over the past three years—then things are even worse than I thought.

Here is reality: The Bush administration's handpicked interim Iraqi prime minister, Ayad Allawi, told the BBC on Sunday, "We are losing each day an average of 50 to 60 people throughout the country, if not more. If this is not civil war, then God knows what civil war is. Iraq is in the middle of a crisis. Maybe we have not reached the point of no

return yet, but we are moving towards this point. . . . We are in a terrible civil conflict now."

Here is self-delusion: Dick Cheney went on "Face the Nation" a few hours later and said he disagreed with Allawi—who, by the way, is a tad closer to the action than the quail-hunting veep. There's no civil war, Cheney insisted. Move along, nothing to see here, pay no attention to those suicide bombings and death-squad murders. As an aside, Cheney insisted that his earlier forays into the Twilight Zone—U.S. troops would be greeted as liberators, the insurgency is in its "last throes"—were "basically accurate and reflect reality."

Maybe on his home planet.

Donald Rumsfeld, meanwhile, was busy on *The Post's* op-ed page, abusing history. Leaving Iraq now, he wrote, "would be the modern equivalent of handing postwar Germany back to the Nazis." The bizarre analogy was immediately disputed by foreign policy sages Henry Kissinger (who noted that there was "no significant resistance movement" in Germany after World War II) and Zbigniew Brzezinski (who just called the comparison "absolutely crazy").

George W. Bush, who speaks as if he has ascended to an even higher plane of unreality, marked the third anniversary of the invasion Sunday by touting a "strategy that will lead to victory in Iraq." I know that "victory" is a word that focus groups love, but did anyone else hear an echo of Richard Nixon's "secret plan" to end the war in Vietnam? Does anyone else remember that there was no "secret plan"?

It's reprehensible when our highest elected officials act cynically, as I believe this administration has done—Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and the rest knew the evidence for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq was less than conclusive, but they hyped it anyway to build support for an invasion they were determined to launch. It's dangerous when our leaders act cluelessly, and the Bush White House has done plenty of that as well—experts who called for a much bigger invasion force were silenced and shoved aside, assurances that Iraqi oil revenue would defray U.S. costs turned out to be a sick joke, and there was no effective plan to get the electricity turned on, much less deal with thousands of insurgents.

But cynicism and cluelessness are one thing. Actually being divorced from reality is another. Do Bush et al. really see only the democratic process they have installed in Iraq and not the bitter sectarian conflict that process has been unable to quell? Do they realize that whatever happens, there's not going to be a neat package, tied up with a bow, labeled "victory"—certainly in the 34 months (but who's counting?) that the Bush administration has left in office?

Rumsfeld, I think, gets it. "History is a bigger picture, and it takes some time and perspective to measure accurately," he wrote in his op-ed piece, the whole tone of which reminded me of Fidel Castro's famous declaration as he was being jailed after his first, failed attempt at revolution: "History will absolve me." Condoleezza Rice seems to get it, too, telling Australians the other day that "beyond my lifetime" people would appreciate what the administration had done for the Middle East.

But what about the two men at the top?

Cheney lamented this weekend that "what's newsworthy is the car bomb in Baghdad," and "not all the work that went on that day in 15 other provinces in terms of making progress towards rebuilding Iraq." Yesterday Bush recounted a successful anti-insurgent operation in one town, calling it a good-news story that people wouldn't see in their newspapers or on their television screens.