

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.

Fine, blaming the media is a time-honored tactic. I just hope they're being cynical about it. I hope they don't really believe the nonsense they're trying to sell.

CHARLES TAYLOR WILL NOW BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a great day for peace and justice in West Africa. Former president of Liberia, Charles Taylor, was arrested and sent to face trial at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Charles Taylor will face 17 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of international humanitarian law for crimes committed against the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone. Charles Taylor committed horrific crimes during his presidency and his arrest will no doubt send shockwaves through Africa and a strong message that tyranny will not be accepted by the people and that you cannot escape justice.

I would like to commend Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf for her courage in calling on Nigeria to hand over Charles Taylor. She did this with no small risk to herself and her fragile country. It is my hope that the international community will come to Liberia's aid and help her as she rebuilds her war torn country.

This is a new dawn for West Africa. The United States and the international community stand with the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone and honor them for their courage to seek justice.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. ELLIS A. MERCER

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 Mr. Ellis A. Mercer and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this outstanding member of the Brooklyn community.

Ellis A. Mercer was born on March 8, 1960 in Brooklyn, New York. He is the son of Mr. Mercer and Mamie Mercer, and the oldest sibling of Eva Maria Mercer-Andrews.

He received his education in the New York City public schools, graduating from Brooklyn Technical High School with a Regents Diploma in Mathematics and Electronics. Mr. Mercer then attended Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I., where he received an A.S. degree in Data Processing, A.S. degree in Accounting, and a B.S. degree in Computer Systems Management.

After receiving his A.S. degree in Data Processing, Mr. Mercer was hired as the University's Assistant Athletic Director. As the Assistant Athletic Director, he managed the University's Sports Complex and oversaw the University's Intramural Sports Program in which over 1,500 students participated. This is where his passion for youth involvement in education and sports began. In 1990 he returned to New

York and was hired as the City of New York Parks & Recreation's Brooklyn Sports Coordinator, where he coordinated and supervised various citywide programs, including Reebok's Coup de Hoop and the Junior Knicks Basketball clinics and tournaments. Mr. Mercer volunteered to recruit and coach the New York's National Youth Game Volleyball Team in Atlanta, GA. He implemented and supervised the Pro-Am NAACP's (3 on 3) and Midnight Basketball tournaments in Brooklyn. He also umpired softball games for the New York City Housing Authority. At the Brownsville Recreation Center he was employed as the After-school Director. After only three years as director, his program was recommended for use as the model program for all City of New York Parks & Recreation After-school programs. Mr. Mercer's program included extensive homework: help and tutoring that helped students sustain the academic standards set by the Board of Education. He also conducted workshops for SAT and ACT testing. He promoted local and overnight college and university tours, including tours to Howard University and Johnson & Wales University. Mr. Mercer also conducted free workshops for over 500 adult participants seeking postal employment.

Mr. Mercer is now a manager at the Jackie Robinson Recreation Center located in Harlem, New York. He also served as Chairman of the DC37, Local 299-2005 election committee.

As Worshipful Master of African 459 Lodge #63 for the past 2 years, Mr. Mercer continues to see that his lodge serves its community by sending 5 children to Camp Eureka in Upstate N.Y., issuing 3 scholarships to students enrolling in, or attending college, and continuing the lodge's annual feeding program and Christmas toy drive.

Mr. Mercer is a deacon at The Friendship Baptist Church. He also serves as the President of the Brotherhood Men's Committee at Friendship.

Mr. Mercer is married to Sandra Elaine Gibson-Mercer and they are the proud parents of one daughter, Britney Elise Mercer.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Ellis A. Mercer, as he offers his talents for the betterment of our local and national communities.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. OLYMPIC CURLING TEAM

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the U.S. Olympic Curling Team for its outstanding success at the XX Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy.

By defeating Great Britain 8-6, the men's team, which consists of Shawn Rojeski and John Shuster of Chisholm, Minnesota, Joe Polo of Cass Lake, as well as fellow Minnesotans Pete Fenson, Scott Baird and Coach Bob Fenson, won the first Olympic medal of any kind for a curling team from the United States.

The women's team members, Courtney George of Duluth, along with Cassie Johnson, Jamie Johnson, Jessica Schultz, Maureen Brunt, and Coach Neil Doese, also dem-

onstrated great skill, determination and mental toughness during the competition in Turin.

Scottish immigrants introduced the sport of curling in North America, first to Canada in 1759 and then to America around 1832. Today, there are approximately 16,000 curlers who belong to 135 clubs in 32 states. Curling debuted as a medal sport at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. I know that the pursuit of excellence demonstrated by Team USA at the 2006 Olympic Games will inspire many people across the country to take up the sport.

Through hard work and outstanding dedication, the team succeeded on the sports world's most prestigious stage. Above all, the sportsmanship the team members demonstrated during the competition embraced the true Olympic spirit.

The curling team's bronze medal victory was truly a golden moment for the State of Minnesota and the entire nation. I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating the U.S. Curling Team and in wishing them continued success.

COMMEMORATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Women's History Month.

Since 1987, the month of March has been designated to give special prominence to the women who have made lasting contributions to our society.

Over the last two centuries, the achievements made by women have been nothing short of phenomenal.

During this month, we have an opportunity to recognize Rosa Parks for revolutionizing a successful movement that forced racial integration in America through her refusal to give up her seat to a white man on a public bus.

Additionally, we must acknowledge Coretta Scott King, the first Lady of the Civil Rights movement and widow of the incomparable Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who transformed her grief into an aspiration to eradicate social injustice and achieve equality for all.

We must also remember Hattie McDaniel, whose dynamic career as an acclaimed singer and actress on film, television, and radio led her to become the first African-American to win the Best Supporting Actress Academy Award in 1940. This great achievement also resulted in her becoming the 29th image to appear on the Black Heritage commemorative stamp series in January 2006.

Mr. Speaker, what makes these icons so extraordinary is that many of their actions, and sacrifices have not only added to the richness and depth of American history, but made the present better for the world.

Yet, even as we remember the famous women who have made history by traveling in space, like Mae Jemison and Sally K. Ride, or curing disease, like Marie Curie and Mary Eliza Mahoney or leading revolutions like Sojourner Truth or Alice Paul, we should also be mindful of those who have devoted their lives to the people of their communities, never seeking the spotlight of history.