

In his articles of impeachment, Kucinich details the many statements Cheney made that turned out to be factually wrong. For instance, he quotes Cheney as saying, "We know they [the Iraqis] have biological and chemical weapons," which of course, they didn't. Still, that was excusable, since it was early in the game and little contradictory evidence was being presented. As Condi Rice said Sunday, "When George [Tenet] said 'slam dunk,' everybody understood that he believed that the intelligence was strong. We all believed the intelligence was strong."

But in Cheney's case, the slam-dunking went on and on—way past the point where it was possible anymore to believe him. He continued to insist that Saddam Hussein had high-level contacts with al-Qaeda—"the evidence is overwhelming," he once said—while others in the government not only knew that the evidence was not overwhelming but that it hardly existed. It was the same with Cheney's insistence—not just wrong, but irrefutably so—that Hussein "has weapons of mass destruction," and "[t]here is no doubt he is amassing them to use against our friends, against our allies and against us." The percussive march of these statements is so forceful, one after another after another, that it suggests Cheney wanted war no matter what. If he was lying to himself as well as to the rest of us, that is only a mitigating circumstance—sort of an insanity defense.

Kucinich also alleges that Cheney "purposefully manipulated the intelligence process to deceive the citizens and Congress." That, as the expression goes, is the gravamen of the charge. Kucinich doesn't stand a ghost of a chance of making it stick because Congress is not about to vote impeachment. But no one who reads Kucinich's case against Cheney can fail to conclude that this is a rational, serious accusation. It's possible that each individual charge can be rebutted, but the essence of it is shockingly apparent: We were being manipulated.

It is something of a joke that Washington is now transfixed by l'affaire Wolfowitz. This is the contretemps at the World Bank in which an architect of this misbegotten war stands accused of favoring his girlfriend. Do not be concerned with the details—this is a parody of a Washington scandal—but concentrate instead on what else Wolfowitz has done in government and how, now, it is a salary increase awarded to a companion that might do him in. This is tantamount to getting Al Capone for tax evasion.

In the same vein, we tend to focus on single events or statements regarding Iraq (to slam dunk or not to slam dunk, that is the question) and how poor George Tenet, a self-deceived careerist, is misunderstood—as if he had uttered a statement of principle dramatically resigning over the manipulation of intelligence and it is suspiciously missing from the record. In all this back-and-forth, what gets lost is the immensity of the outrage, the enormity of the breach of trust, the naive faith some of us had that when it came to the making of war, we'd be told the truth. This was not the case. The harping on weapons of mass destruction was an attempt to scare the American people into supporting a war that need not have been fought.

Kucinich is an odd guy for whom the killer appellation "perennial presidential candidate" is lethally applied. But he is on to something here. It is easy enough to ad hominize him to the margins—ya know, the skinny guy among the "real" presidential candidates—but at a given moment, and this is one, he's the only one on that stage who articulates a genuine sense of betrayal. He is not out merely to win the nomination but to hold the Bush administration—particularly Cheney—accountable. In this he will fail.

What Cheney has done is not impeachable. It is merely unforgivable.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY BETH
HARTLEB

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Mary Beth Hartleb who was awarded the Small Business Administration's Women in Business Champion of the Year Award.

Mary Beth received this award in recognition of the "Women Mean Business Expo," an event she created and organized to showcase women business owners. Mary Beth is the founder, owner, and President of PRISM Human Resource Consulting Services, LLC, a consulting firm that offers a wide-range of human resources services to a variety of businesses. PRISM offers its clients, among other services, benefit program analysis and design, training program development, translation services, and OSHA/Safety program development.

Mary Beth, who earned her JD from the William S. Boyd School of Law, a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management, and a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and Business Administration from Upsala College, has spent more than fifteen years in the human resources field working for both Fortune 500 companies and smaller companies. While working with smaller, entrepreneurial ventures, she has been instrumental in developing human resource departments, strategies, and measures. Mary Beth was President of the Southern Nevada Human Resource Association and currently serves as chairperson for the Business Development committee of the National Association of Business Women, is a member of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, and volunteers with Big Brother/Big Sisters of Southern Nevada.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mary Beth Hartleb. Her dedication to the business and civic community are commendable and I wish her every continued success.

HONORING THE WEST CENTRAL
MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE AND
THE WEST COOK COUNTY SOLID
WASTE AGENCY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two innovative organizations that positively impact over 30 Chicagoland communities—the West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC) and the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency (WCCSWA). Through dedicated and distinguished leadership, these associations continue to foster the improvement of local government, provide quality service to citizens, and enhance the overall quality of life for area residents. Today, I would especially like to recognize and thank WCMC and WCCSWA Executive Director Richard

Pellegrino, 2007 WCMC Executive Committee President Harold J. Wiaduck, and 2007 WCCSWA Executive Committee President Michael J. Garvey.

Since 1980, the West Central Municipal Conference has served as the regional council of governments (COG) in west suburban Cook County. Currently, WCMC has eight standing committees that focus on areas such as buildings and codes, finance, legislative advocacy, intergovernmental affairs, public works, transportation, and public safety. The committees strive to achieve municipal cooperation, communication, community outreach, and fiscal responsibility.

I am privileged today to acknowledge the incoming 2008 WCMC Executive Committee members: President Daniel Pritchett of Franklin Park; Vice President Paul Gattuso of Westchester; Treasurer Roy F. McCampbell of Bellwood; Director Frank A. Pasquale of Bellwood; Director Peter N. Silvestri of Elmwood Park; Director Anthony T. Calderone of Forest Park; Director James L. Discipio of LaGrange Park; Director Jeffrey T. Sherwin of Northlake; Director Patrick T. Rogers of Lyons Township; Director John D. Dalicandro of Elmwood Park; Director Patrick R. Higgins of Western Springs; and Ex-Officio Member Harold J. Wiaduck of Riverside.

The West Cook County Solid Waste Agency, established in 1989, facilitates the efficient and environmentally sound collection, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment, storage, disposal, recovery, and reuse of municipal waste in west Cook County, Illinois. WCCSWA not only administers recycling programs such as the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, the Regional Disposal Project, and the Electronics Recycling Program, but organizes community events that include lawn care buy-backs and paint exchanges. Through its consumer assistance and school education programming, the agency helps citizens make sound environmental decisions and promotes the importance of recycling to young people.

I am also honored today to recognize the 2008 WCCSWA Executive Committee members: President Michael J. Garvey of Brookfield; Vice President Wayne Straza of Country-side; Treasurer Roy F. McCampbell of Bellwood; Director Kevin Barr of Schiller Park; Director Guy Belmonte of North Riverside; Director Karen Rozmus of Oak Park; and Director Marilyn May of River Grove.

The service and contributions made to west Cook County by the West Central Municipal Conference and the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency are extraordinary. I am pleased to honor the staff members, the committee members, and all those who make the activities of these organizations possible. As we work tirelessly to improve the lives of area citizens, I look forward to continuing to serve our communities with the current 2007 and future 2008 Executive Committee members, as well as other WCMC and WCCSWA leaders.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
LOUIS J. PAPAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my colleagues, Mr. BACA, Mr.