



RECRUIT THE CHICKENHAWKS

Chickenhawk *n.* A person enthusiastic about war, provided someone else fights it; particularly when that enthusiasm is undimmed by personal experience with war; most emphatically when that lack of experience came in spite of ample opportunity in that person's youth.

There isn't enough irony in the world to explain away the Republican Party's simultaneous disdain for Bill "Draft Dodger" Clinton and their fawning adoration of George "A.W.O.L." Bush. Nor can it be explained that our current war in Iraq was sold to us by a whole host of men who—for one reason or another—found it in themselves to avoid the various wars of the past half century.

These are our courageous Chickenhawks—guts enough to send the country to war without ever having to set foot in a combat zone themselves. This is bad enough as it is, but is even worse when the war they want people to give their lives for is a fabrication—one fought for fictitious reasons.



Name: George W. Bush (R-TX)

Born: 1946

Employer: The U.S. Taxpayer

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: You know when a guy walks away from a National Guard obligation during wartime and gets away with it, he must come from "a good family." Not that his daddy had anything to do with his getting a Guard slot in the first place - oh, no ...



Name: Richard "Dick" Cheney (R-WY)

Born: 1942

Employer: The U.S. Taxpayer

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: Says he had "other priorities." You bet he had other priorities. Imagine how early in life you must begin scheming to get away with what this guy has. He was too busy thinking about Halliburton to go fight Charlie.



Name: I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby

Born: 1950±

Employer: The U.S. Taxpayer

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby is Dick Cheney's Chief of Staff. He's had a string of no-doubt well-paying government jobs in State and Defense. He's also practiced law. In fact, he was Marc Rich's lawyer for years. Yes — the Marc Rich whose pardon from President Clinton was excoriated by so many high and mighty Republicans. Maybe if Scooter had been a better lawyer, his client wouldn't have needed that pardon. Speaking of legal questions, "Scooter" is alleged by some to have traded energy stocks while helping his buddy Dick Cheney cook up a new energy policy in secret. He's also suspected of having inserted the bogus "Niger yellowcake" reference into the President's State of the Union address. As if all that weren't enough, he's also a top suspect in the outing of CIA operative Valeria Plame. Clearly "Scooter" is a ballsy kind of guy, so it's a complete mystery to us why, when he graduated from Phillips Andover in 1968, he didn't enlist in the Marines or go Airborne instead of going to Yale.



Name: Karl Rove

Born: 1950

Employer: Baal

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: This little cherub was born on Christmas Day, 1950. Karl "Bush's Brain" Rove ran George W.'s campaign, right down to the tiny detail of deciding Bush was going to run. The hardest part was convincing a horde of Republican skeptics that it could be done.

He is said to have said of his boss, he's "the kind of candidate and officeholder political hacks like me wait a lifetime to be associated with."

Now Karl's Senior White House advisor. If he really is "Bush's Brain," and if the fondest wishes of former US Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV come true, one fine day Karl will be "frogmarched out of the White House in handcuffs."

Will history record that event as "Bush's Lobotomy?"



Name: Donald "The Don" Rumsfeld

Born: 1932

Employer: The U.S. Taxpayer

Conflict Avoided: Korea

Notes: When the shooting started in Korea Rummy here was either 18, or about to turn 18. Not to worry for him, though — he spent the war at Princeton, wearing a ROTC uniform. Once the war was over he flew jets for the Navy for a few years. Defenders of Rumsfeld will say he's no chickenhawk — he served, and it's not his fault the war ended before he got his commission. To which others answer, "plenty of farmers and mechanics and kids just out of high school served. Anyone as full of whatever that stuffing in him is, could have tried out for a battlefield commission."



Name: Paul Wolfowitz

Born: 1943

Employer: The U.S. Taxpayer

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: Deputy Secretary for Defense - yet another Bush administration man in the Pentagon who has no idea what it's like to wear a uniform. He got a BA at Cornell in 1965. Maybe if we'd had a guy as bright as he thinks he is in Vietnam, it would have turned out differently.



Name: Ann Coulter

Conflict Avoided: Desert Storm

Notes: Critics will howl that a woman can't be a chickenhawk. In Ann Coulter's case, that doesn't matter; anyone with her level of bellicosity deserves to be held to a higher standard.



Name: Frank Gaffney

Born: 1953

Employer: Indeterminate

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: Frank here is a very clever boy. Built a thing called the Center for Security Policy, which apparently keeps him in nice suits so he will look good in front of the TV cameras, which can't seem to get enough of him. As far as we can tell, Frank is a freelance salesman for the defense industry who is paid by an elaborately circuitous process. For all his obsession with the military, it's funny he never served.



Name: Rep. Newton Leroy "Newt" Gingrich (R-GA)

Born: June 17, 1943

Employer: Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: A virtuoso in the art of hypocrisy, the former Speaker of the House now claims the Vietnam War was a splendid idea, but at the time he opposed going himself. Newtie also speaks highly of morality, but as a serial adulterer he doesn't want to get too close to it himself.



Name: Sean Hannity

Born: December, 1961

Employer: Rupert Murdoch

Conflict Avoided: Desert Storm

Notes: Plenty of guys his age were in Desert Storm - what's his excuse?



Name: David Limbaugh

Born: December 11, 1952

Employer: newspapers with low standards

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: David's no fool - he stayed in school! Straight from high school to college in '71, where he stayed 'till '75, when the war was safely over. Poly sci major, wouldn't you know? The least annoying of the Limbaugh brothers, but only because he's more obscure.



Name: Rush Limbaugh

Born: 1951

Employer: Yack Radio

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: Where to begin ... a joke about the Hindenburg? No, let's go right to the reason he had to stay home from the war - the world's most famous anal cyst. He's denied it, but www.snopes.com, the Urban Legends Reference Pages, has got the goods on him.



Name: William "Bill" O'Reilly

Born: 1949

Employer: Rupert Murdoch

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: Bill O'Reilly loves to come off as a straight-talking, blue-collar kind of guy. Funny, a lot of guys who fit that description and graduated high school the same year he did - 1967 - went straight to Vietnam. Not our Bill - he went to college. And he didn't just go to college, he spent his junior year, 1969-1970, in London. He graduated in 1971, briefly exposing him to the draft again, but Bill was miraculously spared.



Name: Michael Reagan

Born: March 18, 1946

Employer: Yack Radio

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: What are the odds anyone would know who he is if everybody didn't know who his daddy was? What are the odds he would have escaped the draft if his name had been Manual Rodriguez?



Name: Michael Savage

Born: Unk.

Employer: UNK.

Conflict Avoided: Vietnam

Notes: We're not sure if this frothing lunatic is still on the air. Didn't he get canned for saying all gays should contract AIDS and die? If only he could have channeled all that animosity against Ho Chi Minh - we'd be selling Big Macs in Vietnam today!



Name: Dr. Marion "Pat" Robertson

Born: 1930

Employer: Christian Broadcasting Network

Conflict Avoided: Korea

Notes: Dr. Pat claimed in his biography to have "seen combat in Korea. He was in Korea in uniform briefly, but his daddy the Congressman got his reassigned to Japan. His picture belongs in the dictionary next to "pious fraud." Just recently declared that the State Department ought to get nuked, but has yet to be indicted for uttering a terrorist statement.

