

INVENTORY OF THE SCOOTER LIBBY LETTERS

I've read them, all of them. (Big PDF Part One;
Big PDF Part Two; Excel file of all the letters)

What a depressing way to spend a weekend day.
You see, I believe all those people when they
describe how loving Libby is with his kids. And
I believe all those people who describe what a
great mentor Libby has been to young
professionals. But there's no denying that Libby
threw all that away, presumably out of a warped
sense of duty. I'm reminded of the two pieces
Libby's childhood friend Nick Bromell has
written about him, particularly when he
describes,

I want to insist that Scooter's respect
for power is not just a front for cold
self-interest. At bottom, there's a kind
of innocence about Scooter. He has
submitted to masters like Paul Wolfowitz
and Cheney because he respects them,
just as a Zen novice submits to a
meditation master or a young violinist
reveres the prodigious talent of her
teacher.

Because in the end, these letters make complete
sense. They paint a rich portrait of Libby's
commitment to duty and loyalty. And that, of
course, is what got him into trouble.

I'll have one or three posts on individual
letters today or tomorrow. But for now, I
thought I'd provide my rough inventory of who
wrote letters.

Total letters: 196
Letters favoring a harsh sentence: 25
Letters favoring a lenient sentence: 171
Letters from obvious Neocons: 34
Letters from OVP affiliates*: 49
Letters from former Dechert colleagues:
15

I didn't count the number of those whose kids were friends with Libby's kids, those who play football with Libby, or plain old neighbors. Those were the good letters, the ones that read true, but they're also the ones, as such, that deserve some privacy.

*For OVP affiliates, I counted anyone who described working for OVP during Libby's tenure there, whether or not that person is still there. This may have been work directly in OVP or in a service position (such as Secret Service detail) that worked exclusively for OVP. It may have also involved working in NSC in a close role with OVP or being—like John Bolton—the sleeper agent for Cheney in some other agency. In addition, I counted those whose sole tie to Libby comes through an OVP affiliate. For example, I counted Jenny Mayfield, her sister, her father, her father's partner, and her fiancé as OVP affiliates, since their sole tie to Libby is through Mayfield's work as Libby's Assistant (in which position, she stamped incriminating documents with the improper stamp "Treated as Top Secret/SCI"). Both Jenny Mayfield and her sister (who worked for Lynne Cheney briefly) have moved on to new jobs.

If you use the Excel files, please let me know of errors—it was a quick first pass so I don't guarantee its accuracy.