

Healing for Peace

Administration's A-list convenes at the Kuwait-America Foundation gala dinner for Project HOPE

March 7 • Embassy Residence of the State of Kuwait

PHOTOS BY VICKY POMBO AND ZAID HAMID

“Tonight, you have a front-row seat to a great display of both humanity and diplomacy,” remarked master of ceremonies Charlie Rose as he kicked-off a power-infused philanthropic dinner that recognized donors of \$1.5 million for equipment and training for the Basrah Children’s Hospital in Iraq (to be overseen by Project HOPE). Such a display that Rose went on to say he could book his show for the next six months selecting only from the ultra-exclusive list assembled in the elaborately-decorated residence of Kuwaiti Ambassador **Salem Al-Sabah** and his wife **Rima Al-Sabah**.

The couple’s tightly-controlled guest list read like an attendance roster at a White House who’s who. “What I want to know is, who’s having dinner with the President,” joked Rose. **Karl Rove**, **Joshua**

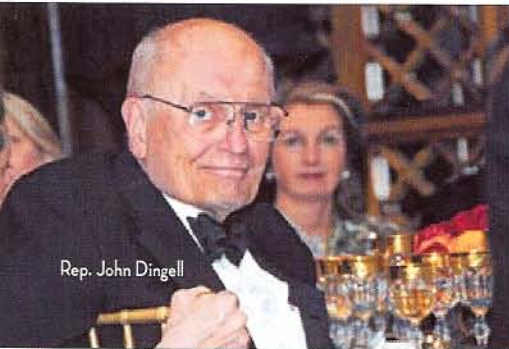
Bolten, **Samuel Bodman**, **Elaine Chao**, **Stephen Hadley**, **Michael Chertoff**, **Carlos Gutierrez** and **Gen. Peter Pace**, among other administration heavyweights, dined on lobster, foie gras terrine and veal piccata in between food for thought from First Lady **Laura Bush**, Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice**, Iraqi Ambassador **Samir Sumaidaie** and Dr. **John Howe**, president and CEO of Project HOPE.

“The Basrah Children’s Hospital significantly expands the capacity of healthcare in Iraq and will address the needs of Iraq’s seriously ill children, especially those suffering from cancer,” Rima Al-Sabah noted.

The First Lady touched upon the legacy of Saddam Hussein’s rule in her address, commenting that during his rein, “Iraq’s health care system fell into ruin.” She added, “Now, as

the people of Iraq work to rebuild their country, improving health care for children is a top priority.” Secretary Rice took a more macro-view: “This hospital is part of a wider effort to build a free, peaceful and prosperous Iraq.”

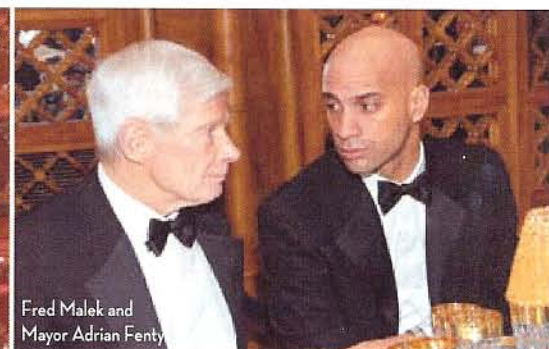
Charitable causes notwithstanding, the evening was a potent networking opportunity for corporate benefactors from ExxonMobil, Dow Chemical, Chevron, Shell Oil, Conoco Phillips, Valero, Marathon Oil, Fluor, AECOM and Tesoro, who were rewarded with premium seating for their contributions. White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten was rewarded with something more light-hearted – a jam session with Grammy award-winner **Randy Travis**, ending the evening on an upbeat note. Additional VIPs included Justice **Anthony Kennedy**, Sen. **Ted Stevens**, Rep. **John Dingell**, **Francis Townsend**, **Robert Kimmitt** and D.C. Mayor **Adrian Fenty**. **WL**



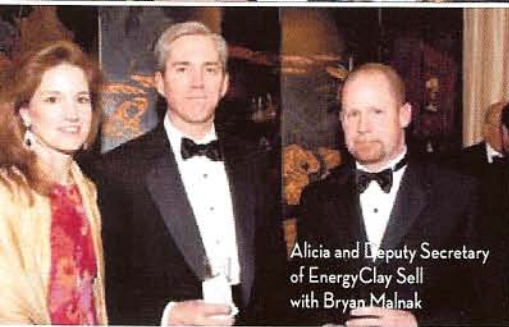
Rep. John Dingell



Master of Ceremonies
Charlie Rose



Fred Malek and
Mayor Adrian Fenty



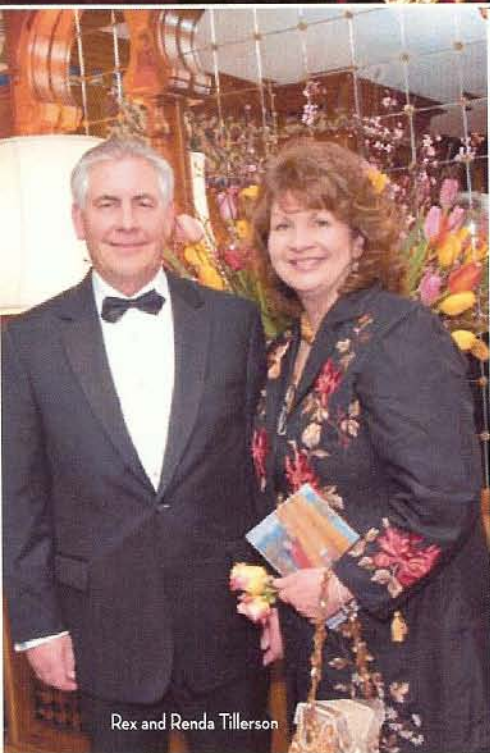
Alicia and Deputy Secretary
of Energy Clay Sell
with Bryan Malnak



Lisa Gordon Hagerly, Becky
Kilbourne and James Jaska



Rima Al-Sabah, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Kuwaiti Amb. Salem Al-Sabah and First Lady Laura Bush



Rex and Renda Tillerson



Elizabeth and Randy Travis with Lynne and General Peter Pace



Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez and Edi Gutierrez



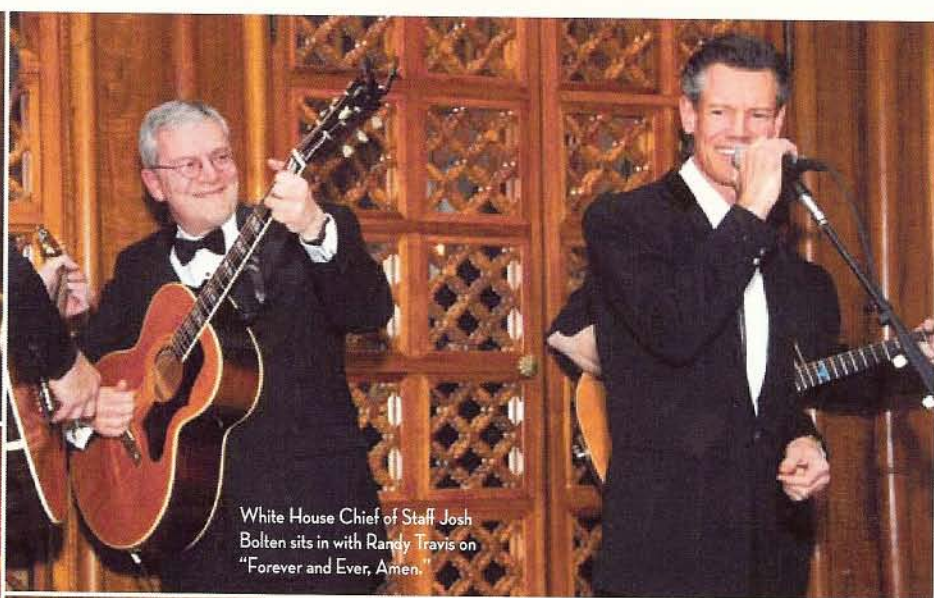
Meshal and Hiba Abushaibah with Gail and Bruce Smith



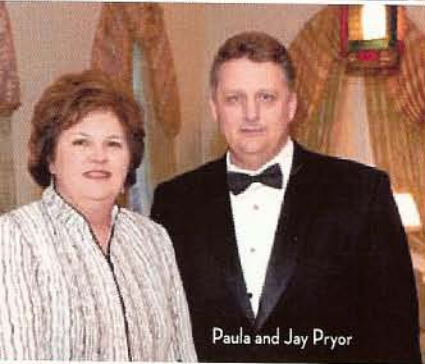
Robb Houston with Dede McClure



Barbara Harrison, Michelle Fenty and Joe Robert



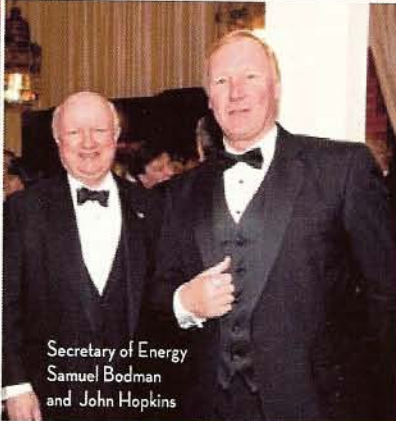
White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten sits in with Randy Travis on "Forever and Ever, Amen."



Paula and Jay Pryor



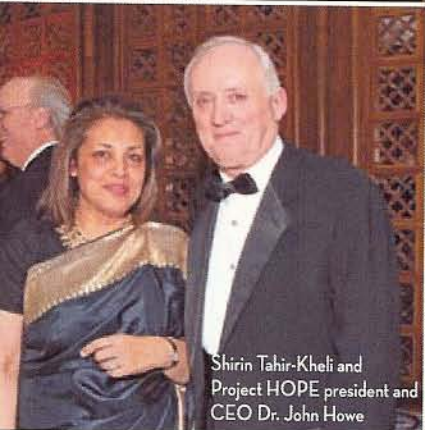
Iraqi Amb. Samir Sumaidaie



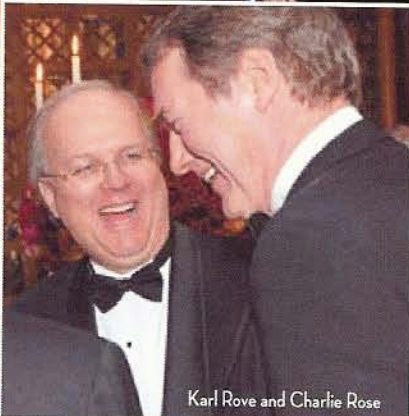
Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman and John Hopkins



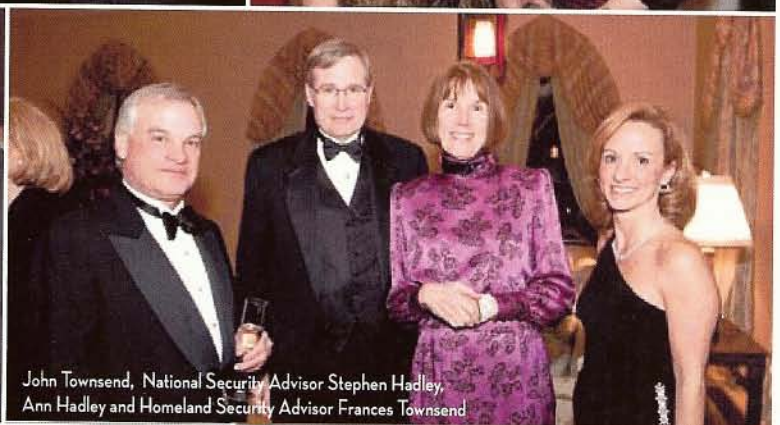
Undersecretary of State Paula Dobrajnsky and Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao



Shirin Tahir-Kheli and Project HOPE president and CEO Dr. John Howe



Karl Rove and Charlie Rose



John Townsend, National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley, Ann Hadley and Homeland Security Advisor Frances Townsend



Meryl and Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff



Michael Sonnenreich



Deputy Chief of Staff Joel and Laura Kaplan with Deputy Secretary of Treasury Robert Kimmitt