

Mexicans helped by her work over nearly three decades.

Every girl who has experienced New Mexico's Girls Ranch; every boy treated at Carrie Tingley Children's Hospital; every child protected by the Children, Youth and Families Department: all owe a debt of gratitude to the inimitable Alice King. She will be remembered for her charm; her down-to-earth dignity; and, her fierce commitment to public service.

Alice's journey from the ranches of Moriarty to the Governor's Mansion might have changed a woman with less courage and confidence. But Alice never forgot the values she had been raised with. She never turned her back on the small towns of our state. And she never lost the strong sense of community obligation that she learned in Moriarty. She remained rooted in a place and a time where your neighbor's children were your responsibility, and she brought that sense of duty to her work in Santa Fe and around the State.

Jill and I send our prayers to Alice's son Gary and the rest of her remarkable family. They, and the rest of New Mexico, have lost a truly great woman.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PHOEBUS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself, Congresswoman THELMA DRAKE and Congressman ROB WITTMAN to call attention to a group of young students from Hampton, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Phoebus High School Phantoms football team had a remarkable 2008 season. On December 6, the Phoebus High School Phantoms won their 4th state football championship this decade, defeating Dinwiddie High School of Dinwiddie 37-13, at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, Virginia.

The Phantoms finished the season with a 15-0 record. Phoebus never trailed in a game this season, and scored 720 points while allowing 53. This latest championship is just another accolade for the City of Hampton's youngest school, founded in 1975. The football team, under Coach Bill Dee has won the State Football Championship three previous times: 2001, 2002, and 2006.

Phoebus High's legacy of excellence is not limited to just the field of athletics. Under the Direction of Principal Robert Johnson, the Phoebus faculty seeks to inspire students to strive for excellence and achievement in the classroom, in their extracurricular activities and in their communities. Phoebus has two innovative programs that expand the learning experience outside of the traditional classroom. Phoebus hosts the Hampton School Division's Center for High Technology. This magnet career academy includes classes in pre-engineering, design and drafting, and Cisco network administration, preparing students for college classes and jobs in the technology sector. Phoebus is also home to the Blue Phantom Inn. This student-run restaurant gives students an opportunity to develop their culinary arts skills, and was nationally recognized in Southern Living magazine.

The Phantoms' excellence in football is also characteristic of the quality of athletics in the Peninsula District of Virginia. Phoebus High School's championship this year marked the 12th time in the last fifteen years that a Peninsula District team has won a state title in football. To quote from our hometown newspaper, the Daily Press, "High school football on the Peninsula is championship football."

We would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to Coach Bill Dee, his coaching staff and all of the players on the Phoebus High School Phantoms, the 2008 Group AAA Division 5 Virginia High School League state football champions.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is December 10, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sunset today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 13,106 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Mr. Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

So Mr. Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 13,106 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is December 10, 2008, 13,106 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, when the 110th Congress finally adjourns sine die, I will come to the end of my time as a Member of the House of Representatives.

I look forward to service in the other body upon the convening of the 111th Congress, but today I want to express my appreciation for all that it has meant to me to have the privilege of membership in this extraordinary body with you and with all the other Members—past and present—with whom I have the honor of serving.

We've all heard that it takes more than moving in to make a house a home.

But I have to say that in my case, I have very much felt at home here in the House since the 106th Congress first convened in 1999, because so many people went out of their way to welcome me and to help me learn what I needed to know.

Thanks to them, I was able to do a better job of trying to properly represent the people of Colorado's Second Congressional District and to contribute to the search for ways to advance their interests and those of our state and our country as a whole.

So, Madam Speaker, today, I want to say “thank you” to all the Members and to the many talented and dedicated staff of the House and its Committees who have helped me do a much better job than I could have done without their advice and assistance.

And, while I am hesitant to mention anyone in particular—for fear of accidental omissions—I cannot conclude without giving special thanks to some of those who have been my special mentors.

On the Natural Resources Committee—which used to have a different name—the gentleman from West Virginia, Mr. RAHALL, has been an example of courteous and effective leadership both as Ranking Member and more recently as Chairman.

I greatly appreciate all his many courtesies to me and his assistance in connection with matters of importance to Colorado that I have brought before the Committee.

I also appreciate having had the opportunity to work with the gentleman from Alaska, Mr. YOUNG, when he chaired the Committee and in his current role as Ranking Member.

DON YOUNG and I do not always see eye to eye, but there have been many instances in which we were on the same side, and I am glad to have had the chance to join forces with him in connection with those matters—as also was the case with respect to his prede-

cessor as Chairman, our former colleague from Utah, Mr. Hansen.

On the Committee on Science and Technology, the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. GORDON, has been unfailingly generous and has provided outstanding leadership. It has been my good fortune to have served with him and with the other members, from both sides of the aisle, as the Committee has dealt with many matters of great importance to Colorado and the country.

I also appreciated having the chance to serve with his predecessor as Chairman, the gentleman from New York, Mr. BOEHLERT, who was always kind and accommodating to me during the time we served together.

Similarly, I made many good friends during my service on the Committees on Small Business and Agriculture and benefitted from the opportunity to learn about the matters within their jurisdictions.

Finally, I cannot fail to mention my deep appreciation for having had the opportunity to be a Member of the Committee on Armed Services. I was privileged to serve with an outstanding chairman, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON as well as with his predecessor, the gentleman from California, Mr. HUNTER.

My years on the Committee have been memorable ones, as we have wrestled with so

many complex and difficult issues related to the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and the other challenges that face our Armed Forces and our country in connection with the threat of international terrorism and other threats. Bonds among Members of the committee are strong, and I feel honored to have been part of such a talented, dedicated and hardworking group of Members and highly-professional staff.

Madam Speaker, I could cite many others to whom I owe a debt of thanks—but the list would be longer than the time available, because they are literally too many to mention.

Therefore let me conclude by simply saying that although in the new year I will have a new job, some things will not change.

I am and will remain a “man of the House,” and while I will be spending more time on the other side of the Capitol, I look forward to continuing to work with you, Madam Speaker, and with the rest of our colleagues here.

So, tonight I choose not to say “farewell”—because this is far from goodbye—or even “so long,” as the Western expression goes.

Instead, let me close with a wish to everyone for happy holidays and a promise that I will “see you later,” in the New Year.