

I am hopeful that this event will educate the public on what can be done to prevent and treat kidney disease. It will undoubtedly contribute to support and funding to those whose lives are intimately touched by the chronic kidney disease.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

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

It is March 6, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11; only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,827 days since the travesty called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again 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." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that 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. It is who we are.

And yet, Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again

to honor that foundational commitment. We 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 been giving them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who hears this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,827 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each 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 the innocent unborn. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is March 6, 2008—12,827 days since *Roe v. 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.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO D.L. "DUSTY" DICKENS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my friend, D.L. "Dusty" Dickens, for her years of dedicated service to the Clark County School District.

Dusty, who is originally from Santa Monica, California, attended Stevens-Henager College in Salt Lake City, Utah and later received an AMA certificate in Management from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dusty was also licensed as a realtor in the State of Nevada in 1978 after attending the Education Dynamics Institute of Real Estate.

Over the past three decades, Dusty has served the Southern Nevada community, spending much of her time in the Facilities Division as the Director of the Demographics, Zoning and Realty Department. During her tenure in the Facilities Division, Dusty was responsible for a number of sizable land acquisition programs and was instrumental in recommending site locations for 200 schools. Dusty was also the co-author of the "Open Schools/Open Doors and Educational Access Agreements" which allows governmental entities and the state university system reciprocal use of public/school facilities. She also had a prominent role in the development of the

school siting methodology for data driven decisions to site new schools.

Given the exponential growth in Clark County in recent years, Dusty has been instrumental in ensuring that our educational services have kept pace with demand. In addition to her distinguished performance in the Demographics, Zoning and Realty Department, Dusty has served as facilitator for the school district's Investment in Excellence Program and as liaison for the School Name Committee. She has also had the opportunity to represent the school district on committees for the City of Las Vegas, City of North Las Vegas, City of Henderson, and Clark County for land use and master plan developments.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to D.L. "Dusty" Dickens. Her service to Clark County has been instrumental and is to be commended. I would like to congratulate Dusty and her family including her husband, Lester and their four children on this honor by the school district. I applaud Dusty for her leadership and congratulate her on this much deserved recognition of having a school named in her honor.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS AT PLYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise before you to extend congratulations to the Plymouth High School Lady Pilgrims girls basketball team. The Lady Pilgrims succeeded in clinching the 3A state championship on March 1, 2008 at Consecro Fieldhouse in Indianapolis with a thrilling 47-46 victory over Indianapolis Chatard.

The Lady Pilgrims worked tirelessly this season to win their second Semi-State title in Plymouth High School history. This significant victory led to their first State title ever for the girls' basketball team.

The Plymouth team consisted of thirteen outstanding young women, including: Seniors Leslie Swihart, Laura Garrity, Jessica McMillen, Jessica Centa and Brittany Payne; Juniors Alex Starr, Brittany Davis, Danielle Hayden, Lyzz Smith and Erin McNeil; Sophomore Chelsea Bengé; and Freshmen Marisa Green and Meagan Barron.

Also, we should not fail to acknowledge the support structure around the team. Head Coach Dave Cox with assistants Lindsay Houin, Dave Duncan and Russ Teall guided the Pilgrims to victory. The team received tremendous community support as evidenced by the busloads of fans that traveled to Indianapolis for the game and the thunderous applause of supporters who gathered to welcome the team home after their victory.

I offer my congratulations to the members of the girls' basketball team of Plymouth High School, the coaching staff, the school administration and community, and the surrounding Plymouth community for their accomplishments this season on the road to the 3A State Championship.