

saving the life of the mother.” “Jane Roe”, or Norma McCorvey, desired an abortion because she was raped; however, her rights were firmly denied in the Texas courts. Her case made it to the Supreme Court by way of an appeal in 1971. The case was argued twice before the Supreme Court because Associate Justice William Rehnquist initially missed part of the arguments. After great debate and deliberation, the Supreme Court struck down the Texas statute as unconstitutional. The decision was made in favor of Roe by a vote of 7 to 2, with Justices William Rehnquist and Byron White dissenting. Justice Harry Blackmun wrote the opinion of the court declaring that it is a woman’s constitutional right to decide whether to carry a pregnancy to term. The court ordered that the performance of an abortion should not be criminalized and also ordered that access to an abortion should not be restricted, limited or unnecessarily difficult.

The 35th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade is a momentous occasion because it symbolizes the notion of liberty and justice for all people under the constitution. Women have historically been deprived of equal rights and liberty, but this court decision brought a new day for all women. I respectfully commemorate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

IN HONOR OF REV. DR. ROSS  
OLIVIER

**HON. CHARLES W. “CHIP” PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 28, 2008*

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, as we start this New Year, I would like to recognize the service of a special and gifted man who has touched the hearts of Mississippi. On July 4, 2004, the congregation of Galloway Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi was blessed with Reverend Ross Olivier as he delivered his first sermon. Sunday, January 13, 2008, his tenure ended and he preached his last message. Ross will travel back home to South Africa to be with his family.

Ross Olivier came to Mississippi in 2004 through a partnership with the Mississippi Conference and the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. He entered Methodist ministry in 1980 and at the end of training received the Flowerday Memorial Award as the outstanding ordinand in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa. He was appointed parish minister to the Heidelberg Circuit and was responsible for 24 racially and culturally diverse congregations. Throughout this time of ministry he touched and healed a broken community during some of the harshest years of the Apartheid era of Southern Africa. In 1994, he traveled throughout six countries, serving the MCSA with a Journey to a New Land, an initiative to refocus the mission of the church in the post-Apartheid years. Later in 1997, he became senior pastor of Northfield Church serving a congregation of 5,000 members. Two years later he was elected to serve the MCSA as General Secretary of 4,500 congregations and 25 million Methodists in Southern Africa.

This challenging, yet gratifying career path gave him a respect for the differences in culture and the tools along with the expertise he

needed to reshape the Galloway Methodist Church community in Jackson. To Mississippi he brought an open and compassionate heart. He strived to form a more inclusive church, one where all are welcomed into the house of the Lord. Through partnerships, he taught that the church could transcend barriers and that the focus should be on economic and social interest, not the color of your skin. He brought transformation, healing, and reconciliation to the state of Mississippi by using the church as a bridge between diverse communities. Reverend Olivier was also very instrumental in bringing about a Faith and Politics Institute pilgrimage to Mississippi. This journey will be co hosted by Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON and myself in late March of this year. It is my hope that Ross will be able to join us then to experience firsthand the fruits of his labor.

Madam Speaker, Reverend Ross Olivier has been an inspiration to Mississippi and to me. He taught a love and responsibility for community; we each have a role that we must honor and uphold. His teachings will be remembered and he will be greatly missed by his congregation and all who knew him. As he journeys back to South Africa to lead a congregation in Pretoria, the lives he touched in Mississippi will remain forever changed and grateful.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

**HON. TRENT FRANKS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 28, 2008*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, because the end of the hour grows close, I would now come before this body with a sunset memorial. We intend to repeat this from time to time to chronicle the loss of life by abortion on demand in this country.

Madam Speaker, it is January 28, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun sets today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand just today.

Exactly 35 years today, the tragic judicial fiat 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 children. Madam Speaker, that is more than 16,000 times the number of innocent lives lost on September 11.

Each of the 4,000 children that we lost today had at least four things in common. 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 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.

Madam Speaker, those noble heroes lying in frozen silence out in Arlington National Cemetery did not die so America could shred her own Constitution, as well as her own children, by the millions. It seems that we are never quite so eloquent as when we decry the genocidal crimes of past generations, those who allowed their courts to strip the Black man and the Jew of their constitutional personhood, and then proceeded to murder-

ously desecrate millions of these, God’s own children.

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

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.”

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 phrase in the 14th amendment encapsulates our entire Constitution. It says: “No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law.”

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the declaration, not the casual notion, but the 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 today, Madam Speaker, in this body we fail to honor that commitment. We fail our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this discussion presents this Congress and the American people with two destiny questions.

The first that all of us must ask ourselves is very simple: Does abortion really kill a baby? If the answer to that question is “yes,” there is a second destiny question that inevitably follows. And it is this, Madam Speaker: Will we allow ourselves to be dragged by those who have lost their way into a darkness where the light of human compassion has gone out and the predatory survival of the fittest prevails over humanity? Or will America embrace her destiny to lead the world to cherish and honor the God-given miracle of each human life?

Madam Speaker, it has been said that every baby comes with a message, that God has not yet despaired of mankind. And I mourn that those 4,000 messages sent to us today will never be heard. Madam Speaker, I also have not yet despaired. Because tonight maybe someone new, maybe even someone in this Congress, who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers more than anyone else, and that nearly 50 million dead children in America is enough. And that America is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are 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 another day yet to come, may that be the day that we hear the cries of the unborn at last. 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