

BULLOCK REACHES OUT TO SUPPORTERS

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AUSTIN, TX.--Texas political legend Bob Bullock reached out to thousands of friends and supporters this week with a startling reminder that mortality is only a state of mind.

In life, Bullock routinely communicated directly to employees and associates with bluntly worded messages printed on distinctive blue stationery. Known as “blue zingers,” these messages were often dictated in the wee hours and hand delivered to recipients first thing in the morning.

The zingers delivered this week are a pitch for tax-deductible donations to a permanent million-dollar endowment for the Bob Bullock Archive of the former Lieutenant Governor's papers housed at Baylor University in Waco and due for its grand opening next year. Bullock graduated from Baylor Law School.

A committee of former Bullock staff and associates put the memo together in part to answer an often-heard recent lament from capitol insiders who wish Bullock were still around to deal with legislative issues.

“I have seen grown men, powerful people in their own right, respond with trembling and cold sweats at the sight of his blue paper,” said group spokesman and former Bullock lieutenant John Paul Moore.

“When you got a zinger, you knew he was personally interested. He would use them to let you know when he was unhappy with you, or that you had done a particularly good job on something. Either way, it would make or break your day to get one. So, when it came to reaching out to ‘Bullock people,’ we knew a zinger would have real impact.”

“During my career, you sent me deathless prose and plenty of bad advice,” the memo reads. “Much of it is captured in the Bullock Archive. Since you are a part of this, I know you will want to see it done right.”

Bullock’s widow, Jan Felts Bullock of Austin, evidenced grace and good humor by sanctioning the group’s approach. “It is just the sort of thing he would appreciate,” she said.

“It might seem old-fashioned, but we’re still bipartisan,” says the memo, pointing to contributions already pledged to the endowment by former Senator David Sibley and former House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Stan Schlueter, both Baylor alumni.

Longtime Bullock fundraiser Susan Longley is again handling fundraising for the Archive, which includes correspondence and hundreds of thousands of official documents Bullock donated to Baylor in accordance with an agreement with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Contributions in any amount to Baylor University, P.O. Box 97148, Waco, Texas 76798-7148, will be recognized at the opening of the Bullock Archive.

“I know times are hard,” the memo closes, “but if you think you have a tough time raising money, try doing it from the State Cemetery.”

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