"...I'd rather be introducing her as the President of the U.S."

— Dick Amberg, The Montgomery Advertiser
I consider it an enormous honor to be asked to introduce to you an exceptional, remarkable woman who probably needs no introduction to any of you. After all, for the past 13 consecutive years she has been named as one of the Ten Most Admired Women in the World by the annual Good Housekeeping magazine poll, so she is hardly unknown to the public at large.

And, after all, she is the president of this great organization, Eagle Forum, and comes here to the Alabama Chapter Leadership Conference each spring to tell it like it is.

You can be sure that Phyllis Schlafly will always tell it like it is. In looking over our newspaper accounts from the last five years of her visits to Alabama, it was clear that, as in the 1960s and 1970s, she still manages to attract controversy like superconductors attract physicists. And I know she wouldn't have it any other way.

In 1985 our headline after the Birmingham Conference was, “Critic accuses teachers of 'psychological meddling,'” which Phyllis backed up in a 450 page book of testimony she compiled called Child Abuse in the Classroom. She was picketed that year by three sorry groups — the ACLU, NOW, and a group called Alabama Nuclear Weapons Freeze — which I think is a marvelous compliment to her. It certainly makes me envious and jealous. In 1986 the headline was “Schlafly urges censorship fight,” and as usual she was forthright in her views. I might add that unlike editorial writers, as I occasionally am, who come down from the mountain after the battle to shoot the wounded, Phyllis is in the fight from the start — and she takes no prisoners.

The 1988 headline was typical of her straightforward approach, even when the issue isn't glamorous. The headline read, “Schlafly urges teachers to stress abstinence.”

The 1988 headline was “Eagle Forum president blasts babysitting bill,” and last year she must have had an off-day, or our reporter had an off-day, because the headline just said, “Day-care policies debated.” That babysitting bill of 1989 was our lead story in Friday's Journal because the House had just voted to pass it.

As I said, Phyllis Schlafly always has told it like it is. Her monthly newsletter, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, for more than 20 years has been a beacon. Her daily radio commentaries are heard on some 210 stations. She has testified before more than 50 Congressional and state legislative committees, and was the only woman invited by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to testify regarding the Moscow Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963. Phyllis is asked to testify because she is a true expert in a number of fields.

Schlafly as Author

She has written a dozen books on a variety of topics from national defense to Henry Kissinger to pornography to public education. Her very first book, A Choice Not an Echo, written in 1964, sold more than three million copies without any advertising on its behalf at all. It is one of the top 10 conservative books of all time.

She collaborated with Rear Admiral Chester Ward on at least four books that I have read, The Gravediggers about nuclear war, Strike From Space about maintaining peace through strength, The Betrayals about how our elected officials have betrayed our faith, and Kissinger on the Couch about my kindly old professor, and the enormous power he held and abused at the time of the writing of the book in 1975.

Among her other books is Safe Not Sorry, about political shenanigans, including her own defeat in her 1967 race for president of the National Federation of Republican Women due to outrageous chicanery by the liberal contingent. She has been president of the Illinois Federation of Republican Women among her precinct, district, state and national posts within the GOP.

She is the author, as I mentioned earlier, of a compendium called Child Abuse in the Classroom, and of five other books I haven't mentioned. And when not writing books or her monthly newsletter, or running the Eagle Forum, or being a radio commentator, or giving testimony, she is the author of a once a week syndicated column distributed by Copley News.
Service. On top of that, she does such things as serve as a presidential appointee on the Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution and keeps up with the law, since she is also an attorney and a member of the bar in Illinois, Missouri, and the District of Columbia.

Phyllis Schlafly — A History

This remarkable, remarkable woman was born Phyllis Stewart five years before the Depression to a middle class family in the suburbs of St. Louis. Her father lost his job as a salesman for Westinghouse after the stock market crash of 1929 and could not find work during the New Deal era, but fortunately her mother landed a teaching job. As Phyllis said later, “I felt a compulsion to get myself trained to support myself, which my mother had done before me.” And she did that brilliantly, so to speak. She completed her undergraduate degree in three years at Washington University in St. Louis, graduating Phi Beta Kappa, while working full time at night as a test gunner and ballistics technician at the largest ammunition plant in the world, located in St. Louis. It was this experience that began her interest in military affairs. After college, in only nine months she earned a graduate degree in political science from Harvard/Radcliffe.

Thereafter she worked in Washington for a consulting firm for a year before returning to St. Louis to run the winning campaign for Republican Congressional candidate Claude Blakewell, who was running against an incumbent New Dealer in heavily Democratic St. Louis.

It was in St. Louis that she met her husband, attorney Fred Schlafly. Probably the most preposterous thing Phyllis ever said — and she says very little that I find less than totally believable — is a statement she supposedly likes to make that was quoted in the book Famous in America. According to the book she said, “Fred rescued me from the life of a working girl.” Phyllis Schlafly may be a model mother of six children, but she is now, has always been, and always will be a working girl in the sense of working harder than anyone for a strong national defense, a strong pro-family environment, a strong moral and upright nation, and preservation of our Judeo-Christian heritage.

Even Phyllis concedes, “I’m very industrious” — and that may be the greatest understatement she has ever uttered. Many years after most people head for law school, at a time when she was already nationally prominent, she endured the potential humiliation and scorn of those with opposing views by attending Washington University Law School, where she won the respect and even admiration of fair-minded students and faculty, emerging with honors, followed by admission to the bars of Illinois, Missouri and the District of Columbia.

Some of her accomplishments include an award that Phyllis won that is very dear to me because it was created by my late father and because it was given by his newspaper, where later I was to work and to become general manager and executive editor. In 1963 Phyllis Schlafly was named a “Woman of Achievement in Public Affairs” by the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. They — we — noted, Phyllis Schlafly stands for everything that has made America great and for those things which will keep it that way. Phyllis has won numerous other awards both before and after that, but I am proud to say that despite providing precious little information about herself on the jackets of her books, the one award she has singled out in at least half of her books — maybe more — is the “Woman of Achievement” award of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. I know that would make my father, who admired Phyllis
enormously as I do, very happy.

The final accomplishment I feel compelled to mention is one that outdoes Horatius at the bridge, who stopped a mere army of Etruscans trying to cross the bridge to Tiber. Phyllis virtually singlehandedly stopped a runaway freight train, a howling army-sized mob, and gangs of steamrollers surging down the track to pass the so-called Equal Rights Amendment in record time. One state — I think it was Hawaii — passed the amendment within hours of Congress' sending it to the states for ratification. Many others wasted no time or no thought in doing the same, hip, cool, oh-so-fair-sounding thing. When ERA was first proposed to the state, it seemed so noble that the idea was even endorsed by all of the policymakers at my paper — all of whom were far to the right of Attila the Hun as befits those who hired and worked with Patrick Buchanan.

I'm delighted to say that I — who occasionally think Patrick Buchanan a dangerous leftist — was the one exception, but at the time I was the fourth ranking editorial writer out of four, so I carried about as much weight as a quadriplegic gnat — or would it be a sextoplegic or octoplegic gnat? Fortunately, we soon changed course, and it was Phyllis who showed the St. Louis Globe-Democrat the errors of its ways on probably the one occasion of all time that we disagreed with Phyllis' position. Needless to say, Phyllis also soon changed the thinking of the entire nation.

Please permit me one final personal note. I'm sorry to be introducing Phyllis Schlafly as president of Eagle Forum. As nice as that is, I would rather introduce her (and I mean this sincerely) as President of the United States. I disagree with her on some points here and there, but all in all I would rather have Phyllis be my leader than anyone else I know. With Phyllis Schlafly I know I can count on a strong national defense, on a high moral course for the country, on an emphasis on the family unit, and on traditional and conservative principles that serve our Maker, our country, all our countrymen, and the world. No one else gives me that knowledge or feeling, and that's why I honestly, truly admire Phyllis Schlafly as a leader more than any other person, male or female. I say that not because she is here and so am I, but because I have believed it for many years.