Notes for November 8, 2022

We won't forget

Our 19 children and 2 teachers of Uvalde gone

To be with our 10 younger siblings from Santa Fe

And our abuelos and abuelas from El Paso.

We won't forget

The 14.6 out of 100,000 would-be parents,

Some reluctant but had all other options

Legislated away.

We won't forget

Our 5 trans sisters who departed last year

And the 18 from the year before—

And after adding both up,

There are more bills trying to erase them

And the children who have yet to be themselves.

We won't forget

The 246 who tried to keep from freezing

Like the rest of us huddled in the dark

And did not live to see more messages about

Conserving A/C and rolling blackouts

In the name privatization and Bitcoin mining.

We won't forget

The 86,765 and counting

Sacrificed for the economy

And anti-affordable healthcare

That's really a lingering effect of the Red Scare.

We won't forget

Clinton Allen, Sandra Bland, Botham Jean,

Atatiana Jefferson, and many more

Failed by those who are supposed to protect,

Who could not protect

Please don't forget.

The children and teachers at Uvalde.

When it's November 8, 2022, And you have a lot to do at work And don't want to wake up early Or take a late lunch And maybe you don't have the car today And it's a hassle to take the bus Or call a Lyft or Uber,