

THE DEFINITIVE TOP TEN

by Fred Hobbs

How in the world does one pare down the list of accomplishments large and small to chalk up before “shuffling off this mortal coil,” paraphrasing Shakespeare’s line in “Hamlet.” Well, one way is to create a “bucket list” of dreams and/or intentions yet unfulfilled before kicking said bucket.

With apologies to David Letterman or more especially to the late night TV icon’s writers, for borrowing or stealing one of his nightly shticks, here is my Top Ten bucket list:

Number 10: Take a paddleboat cruise up the Mississippi River from New Orleans. My late wife and I planned to do this, but for various reasons chose other vacation venues instead. The trip is easily accomplished, though. Just get out the trusty credit card and hit the Internet.

Number 9: Meet Doris Day in person. She is my all time favorite entertainer with a singing voice sweet and clear and a sunny on-screen personality, with just a little hint of sexiness and by all accounts a very nice person. “Dodo ” turns 90 in April, the same month I reach 82, so both of us better hurry if we are to meet.

Number 8: See the Broncos win the Super Bowl. They still have a chance this season. Even if the team makes it to the Big Game, I don’t have the inclination to spend money to go to freeze in the cold of the Meadowlands of New Jersey to see it in person.

I can...and have...“frozen” while huddled with the crowd at Mile High. I am content to view the contest on the TV while sitting in my favorite easy chair, just so the Broncos win.

Number 7: Vote for a woman President and watch her inauguration on TV.

Number 6: Learn to beat my buddies in at least one of our spirited games of pool.

Number 5: Re-grow a full head of hair. The odds on that are even more impossible than they are concerning the next item on the bucket list.

Number 4: Win the Powerball or Mega Millions Lottery. The odds on that happening are in the stratosphere, a height which I never will reach before I “kick the bucket” and am doubtful of occupying even after the bucket topples over.

Number 3: Sail through the air as a passenger in a glider. The experience presumably is akin to that of a bird. I am told that the silence is calming and relaxing and the views are awe-inspiring.

Number 2: See all of my grandchildren graduate from high school and enter college. One has already done so, but there is a precocious eight-year old who has some “time in grade” before she will undoubtedly achieve that status.

And, the number one item on my personal Top Ten bucket list: Live to be at least 90 so that the most reasonable of the other nine will be accomplished.