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LIFE

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NEWSLETTER OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE OF NEW MEXICO



JULY 4, 1776 THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness – that to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Government.

These great words written by Thomas Jefferson and from which much of our Constitution received its direction in its creation are now being ignored. The result is many unborn children, the elderly, and those who are mentally and physically challenged are now not treated as a citizen or are second class citizens. Let us look at these words and when done talk to others so they can learn what this great country did and must again do to value all human life.

"Self-Evident Truth" - this means it is always to be. It is not based on opinions, feelings, or interpretation by a few to change society to meet their needs.

"Unalienable Right to Life" - exists independently from what others want, be it government, the judicial branch, or the convenience of individuals who wish to ignore this essential part of all of us.

The government drives its "just Powers from the consent of the Governed" - The founding fathers believed in "the capability of a people to govern themselves." Roe vs. Wade was not created by the governed. Terry Schiavo was not allowed to have the people of Florida address her problem. Now government wants to tell us what health care we can have or not have.

The reason for government is "to secure these Rights." The Constitution is the instrument for the implementation of the Declaration of Independence. Thus, judges are not free to ignore the principles laid down in the Declaration of Independence. Government may not work "around" the Constitution, and the people of The United States of America will never be safe or respected unless we value what our forefathers had the foresight to put in place that values each and everyone of us.

We must demand our politicians and our judges get back to basics and truth.

OTHER WORDS THAT MATTER

While it is necessary to criticize our governments, judges, and those who work against our Declaration of Independence and Constitution, it is also necessary to see what our own role has been to change the course of the vision taken by our forefathers.

Right as defined by the dictionary is something that is correct, just, proper, or honorable. It can be a just action or decision. It is something (as a power or privilege) to which one has a just or lawful claim.

Of course, the unborn should have the right to life. However, we who have been born have rights that we

choose to ignore. When we talk about the government, we are talking about ourselves. We are the government. The government we have has been selected through the voting process and from that the judiciary, when not voted upon directly, is chosen by those we put in office with our votes.

Do we vote? Few of us participate in the voting process that was created for us by the same forefathers who created the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence so that we could have a government of the people and by the people. Many have forsaken the "right" to vote. How do we vote? Are we educated on the issues and the candidates' positions on all the issues? Do we sort assertions from fact? Or are we "schmoozed" by fancy rhetoric? Do we put allegiance to a party or a

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GUEST EDITORIAL

by Charlene Comba, State Board Director

BEGGING LETTER vs FUN FUNDRAISER

All of you dedicated, committed, pro-lifers raise your hand if you like begging letters!! Hmm, small showing. Okay, all of you pro-lifers raise your hand if you like a fun fundraiser!!! Wow! Much better. Now, with that raised hand grab your phone and dial 505-821-9101.

This is the home of John and Betty Eichenseer, who for the last five summers have forfeited their time to oversee the most successful fundraiser ever: concessions at the Isotopes games. No summer vacation for these folks, and thanks to them plus a hardy group of volunteers the Right to Life Committee of NM is better off for this effort. The money raised has helped us maintain our budget.

What if all of you reading this newsletter called to help??!! The more folks willing to spend a few hours at a ballpark with other great, dedicated pro-lifers would give us the opportunity to make more funds!! That, in turn, will keep the newsletters coming, make certain the office is open, staffed, and fellow citizens are educated about the life issues we all care about.

One volunteer, Heather, was the ONLY worker at Stand 6 one Sunday night, and she pulled in \$2,000.00!!!. That same night at Stand 1, a small crew of 13, taking no breaks, worked non-stop and rang up over \$8,000.00 at the registers. Net income for RTLNM for that one night was over \$850.00. Better than cutting a check in response to a begging letter.

Call John and Betty. The small group of dedicated volunteers needs help. If all of you work just one game or maybe a couple of games, we could raise enough money so that RTLNM could expand the organization and thus do a great deal more to educate our people in New Mexico on pro-life issues that affect their lives. Bring some family, friends, or church members and have fun.

OR, if you prefer begging letters, then just ignore the previous invitation for fun and fellowship.

charismatic candidate above principle? Do we pull a lever or make an X without thought or conscience so that we vote away the inalienable right to life given to all of us?

Freedom is defined as the quality of the state of being free: independence, a political right. Are we "free" in this nation? Probably more than most nations, but there are policies, regulations, and laws that have been unjustly made that are not independent from us. In New Mexico, we pay taxes for abortions that kill the unborn baby who has an unalienable right to life. Is the baby who dies free, or are those paying to kill him or her free? What choices have we sacrificed? What have we gained when we sacrifice freedoms?

In the dictionary responsibility says the quality of a state of being responsible or something for which one is responsible. It says that responsible is 1) liable to be called upon to answer for one's acts or decisions; 2) able to fill one's obligations: reliable, trustworthy; 3) able to choose for one's self between right and wrong; 4) involving accountability for important duties.

The question has to be begged, are we a responsible nation with responsible people? We can clearly say there is much to be desired. We have a society too often that works on self-centeredness and produces little to advance our culture or carry out our history. Rights are subjugated to "what feels good for me is my right" Thus, we have children who are not responsibly raised by parents who many times don't take their responsibilities as they should. This creates families in trouble, separated, and in despair. Schools reflect what happens when there are irresponsible families and children. In turn, they act and live not taking responsibility in their lives.

Is it a wonder that politicians, people in religion, the medical field, teachers, the press, even those in sports don't want to take responsibility? We want to blame others, but we personally don't want to take responsibility for what our country has become.

Duty in the dictionary says is conduct due to parents or superiors: 1) respect; 2) the action taken by one's occupation or position; 3) assigned service or business; 4) a moral or legal obligation.

Each and every one of us has a duty, whether we are a parent, grandparent, or a family member, an employer or politician, or an average person to preserve what our forefathers provided at the cost of their lives and fortune. They understood the moral and legal obligation and the assigned service they were given.

We must respect life, and we have a duty to defend it. We have the freedom to do this, and we have the responsibility. Responsibility is the other side of the coin called Freedom. Duty is the other side of the coin of Right. When our nation and each of us as individuals give the time, money, prayers, and energy to restore respect for life, then we will turn this culture of death around. WE WILL AGAIN CELEBRATE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR EVERYONE!

BORN TO RUN – WE NEED SPONSORS!



We want to apologize that the sponsor form was not in the June Viva Life. The brochure just did not get to us in time. However, it is in this edition, and we are asking you to be a sponsor either as an individual, organization, business, or as a political candidate or elected official.

Why is this so important? There is so much facing the pro-life movement in New Mexico that is challenging our resources, materials, and having enough involved people. Being the only state-wide pro-life

organization that has chapters and an educational program in place to educate the citizens of New Mexico always puts a burden on the Right To Life Committee of New Mexico to meet these educational needs. A fact of life is that we need income to work our mission. We need volunteers to reach our goals. Our source for both of these needs is YOU! There is no other source of income or people from which we can draw.

We are willing to meet the demands and hope you see the need to support Born To Run with your donation. If there are others you know that you believe would like to be a sponsor, just call the office, and we will get you the additional forms you need or mail them for you. Please note the deadline (August 17) for this aspect of the Born To Run event.

If you have questions, please call 881-4563 or e-mail info@rtlmm.org. Thank you for your consideration.

ADIEU TO A STAUNCH SUPPORTER

Margaret Neff was a person who gave and then gave some more. She supported our organization and its movement in thought, word, and deed. She gave in financial support along with her husband Steve. She gave in time at the state office, and when she couldn't come into the office, she did work at home.

Her life, her dedication, her faith, and her sense of humor will be greatly missed, but the lessons she taught us on how to continue even under adversity will not be forgotten. Thank you, brave and faithful warrior. You will be truly missed.

PS: The Right to Life Committee of New Mexico wishes to thank the Neff family for mentioning RTL-CNM as an alternative for donations rather than sending flowers. May others do this when a pro-life member passes on. It gives that person the last word on his or her pro-life convictions, and it gives RTL-CNM the opportunity to spread the word. Please keep us in mind when choosing an organization to donate to.

COMMENTARY FROM THE EDITOR

by Dauneen Dolce

It upsets me when we have a "victory" that there are pro-lifers that don't accept the victory and then go on to criticize those who do.

LET ME MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THE SUPREME COURT'S UPHOLDING OF THE BAN ON PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION WAS AND IS A VICTORY!!!

No, it did not ban all abortions. No, it did not overturn Roe vs. Wade. The law that was passed by Congress is now in effect, not an interpretation made by one of the Supreme Court Justices, who often in writing about a decision do not use the proper terminology. They did not rewrite the law but upheld it.

Our movement is one of "baby" steps. This ruling and this ban is progress.

First of all, we do have a Supreme Court that will deal with congressional legislation and may have the votes on issues that the opposition does not want placed into law. This, in turn, gives the states greater leverage when writing laws, as they have the assurance of "law" to support the legislation. It was when the Supreme Court ruled on Parental Involvement and Women's Right to Know laws that then allowed many other states to take on the legislation with the assurance it would win legal scrutiny.

Congress, once it has the pro-life votes in place, is now moved to pass more pro-life legislation. Furthermore, the message was clearly made that there is a type of abortion that is unacceptable. We did not have that before this ban was passed.

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The ruling is said to have upheld a mere "regulatory" law. This is important, for we can't wait until Roe vs. Wade is overturned to put in place all the protections we can for the unborn, and for that matter, the mother.

Throughout history it took time, education, and laws to change social wrongs. This includes slavery and minority rights and women's rights. Many actions, laws, and attitudes needed to be changed. Laws help change those attitudes.

The desire is to have the court define the child as a person. This will not happen until legislation is passed, for to do so would bring the activism that took place when Roe vs. Wade was passed. That law invented a "privacy" and referred to personhood. Since personhood is not defined in our Constitution, many on the court do not feel they are the ones to define it.

This ban is not a compromise. It is a step towards the final goal of educating the public so that they will see the need to ban all abortions and to save not only babies but human life, which has become expendable.

Pro-life organizations should still rejoice in this one act that moves us forward to our final goal.

THE SUPREME COURT MAKES ANOTHER GOOD RULING

On Monday, June 26, 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court created a safe harbor for grassroots lobbying from the blackout period created by the "electioneering communication" prohibition in McCain-Feingold campaign reform bill. This bill created in 2002 prohibited corporations and unions from using general treasury funds for "electioneering communications," which are broadcast ads within 30 days of a primary and within 60 days of a general election that simply mention the name of a federal candidate. In 2003 the Supreme Court upheld the law on its face value in *McConnell vs. FEC*. In July 2004 Wisconsin Right To Life (WRTL) began running grassroots lobbying ads asking Wisconsin citizens to call their Senators Kohl and Feingold (then a candidate), and ask them to oppose the burgeoning filibusters of President Bush's judicial nominees.

The BeFair website was especially created for the anti-filibuster campaign and contained information about the senate confirmation process, the filibusters, federal courts, the judicial emergency clause by too few judges, and press releases about the anti-filibuster grassroots lobbying campaign.

Because Senator Feingold had chosen to run for reelection, WRTL's ads would have been forbidden "electioneering communications" from August 16 to November 2, 2004 because of McCain-Feingold's blackout period (79 continuous days because the primary and general election prohibition periods overlapped). WRTL filed suit so that it would be able to continue running its ads during the blackout period. WRTL argued in its suit that the blackout period could not be constitutionally applied to grassroots lobbying about upcoming votes in Congress. The right to petition the government is a specifically protected right of the First Amendment, and grassroots lobbying has nothing to do with elections. Incumbent politicians should not be able to prohibit citizens from lobbying their representatives through campaign finance laws. In 2004, the federal district court denied WRTL's request and dismissed the case in 2005 based on its belief that when the Supreme Court upheld the blackout provision on its face in *McConnell vs. FEC* it precluded such applied challenges. In 2006, the Supreme Court unanimously reversed the district court, ruling that as-applied challenges could be brought against the blackout period and remanded the

case for a decision on the merits of WRTL's suit as-applied challenge.

In December 2006, the district court held that the "electioneering communication" prohibition was unconstitutional as applied to WRTL's 2004 ads. They found there was no 'link' between WRTL's grassroots lobbying ads and Sen. Feingold's character of fitness for office (i.e., his role as a candidate as opposed to his role as a legislator).

The June 26, 2007 decision went beyond merely affirming the district court and created a constitutional safe harbor for genuine issue ads. It stated that only if the ad "is susceptible of no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate" can the ad be prohibited during the blackout period. Furthermore, the Court rejected the argument by the FEC and McCain that ads could be banned based upon the speaker's intent to influence an election by the ads or the effect the ads might have on an election.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU PRESIDENT BUSH!

On June 20, 2007, President Bush once again vetoed the embryonic stem cell bill passed by Congress for embryonic stem cell research. President Bush has said embryo destruction is a moral line that he will not cross. He has made it clear that he will not support legislation that will destroy embryos for "potential" cures, etc. That is what this legislation would do with only a "promise" of creating cures.

Instead, he gave his support to alternative research, such as using adult stem cells that have a proven record of being able to treat many diseases that in turn have created some cures and will create more with time and research.

Some of the alternatives are using stem cells from amniotic stem cells – stem cells found in the fluid that cushions babies in the womb. They appear to have all the [alleged] benefits of embryonic stem cells and none of the downsides.

"They grow fast, as fast as embryonic stem cells, and they show great pluripotentiality," meaning they can become many kinds of tissues, said Anthony Atala, who led the team of researchers at Wake Forest University and Harvard University. "But they remain stable for years without forming tumors," he added, "something that embryonic stem cells are not very good at."

Just a few weeks ago we wrote about the work of three research teams. Working with mice, they coaxed established cells – in this case, a skin cell – to go back in time, to revert to the status of embryonic stem cells. In effect, they pushed the cells' "reset" button.

In reprogramming adult stem cells, the researchers produced a cell that can grow into virtually any type of tissue without destroying a human embryo. As the *Times* put it, "This raises the possibility that everyone may possess the raw material to make stem cells with the same therapeutic potential as ones from embryos."

HOW DID OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VOTE?

REPRESENTATIVES

Congressman Steve Pearce voted against the Embryonic Stem Cell bill. He voted for the alternative stem cell research.

Congresswoman Heather Wilson and Congressman Tom Udall voted for the Embryonic Stem Cell bill and against alternative stem cell research.

These are consistent votes for Congressman Pearce and Congressman Udall. However, Congresswoman

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