

THE COMMON BELIEF



THE WHITE HOUSE
January 14, 2003
NATIONAL SANCTITY OF
HUMAN LIFE DAY, 2003
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

Our nation was built on a promise of life and liberty for all citizens. Guided by a deep respect for human dignity, our Founding Fathers worked to secure these rights for future generations, and today we continue to seek to fulfill their promise in our laws and our society. On National Sanctity of Human Life Day, we reaffirm the value of human life and renew our dedication to ensuring that every American has access to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

As we seek to improve quality of life, overcome illness, and promote vital medical research, my Administration will continue to honor our country's founding ideals of equal dignity and equal rights for every American. Every child is a priority and a blessing, and I believe that all should be welcomed in life and protected by law. My Administration has championed compassionate alternatives to abortion, such as helping women in crisis through maternity group homes, encouraging adoption, promoting abstinence education, and passing laws requiring parental notification and waiting periods for minors.

The Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, which I signed into law in August 2002, is an important contribution to our efforts to care for human life. This important legislation helps protect the most vulnerable members of our society by ensuring that every infant born alive, including one who survives abortion, is considered a person and receives protection under Federal law. It helps achieve the promises of the Declaration of Independence for all, including those without the voice and power to defend

their own rights.

Through ethical policies and the compassion of Americans, we will continue to build a culture that respects life. Faith-based and community organizations and individual citizens play a critical role in strengthening our neighborhoods and bringing care and comfort to those in need. By helping fellow citizens, these groups recognize the dignity of every human being and the possibilities of every life; and their important efforts are helping to build a more just and generous Nation. By working together to protect the weak, the imperfect, and the unwanted, we affirm a culture of hope and help ensure a brighter future for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Sunday, January 19, 2003, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. As we reflect upon the sanctity of human life, I call upon all Americans to recognize this day with appropriate ceremonies in our homes and places of worship, to rededicate ourselves to compassionate service, and to reaffirm our commitment to respecting the life and dignity of every human being.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

GEORGE W. BUSH

North Carolina General Assembly Update

For the first time in its history, the NC House has cospeakers: Representatives James B. Black (D) and Richard T. Morgan (R). At this time, it is difficult to say how this sharing of power will effect pro-life legislation which will be introduced in the coming months. More than ever pro-lifers need to stay in contact

(continue on Page 4)

North Carolina Right to Life, Inc.
Statement of Purpose

North Carolina Right to Life was incorporated in October 1973, for the

purpose of engaging in educational, charitable, scientific, literary, and public policy activities, and projects. NCRTL is a non-profit, non de-nominational service organization dedicated to protecting and fostering the most basic value of our society, life itself.

We recognize and seek to enact the injunctions found in Proverbs 31:8, to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves and to protect the rights of the helpless. Therefore, we advocate positive action to protect the unborn, the impaired, the elderly, and all others who are disadvantaged or defenseless at any age or stage development from the moment of fertilization to natural death. We work within the law to change the law, as well as to change the minds and hearts of the public.

THE CONCEPT

THE CONCEPT is the official publication of North Carolina Right to Life, Inc. It is published bi-monthly in Greensboro, North Carolina.

President and Executive Editor,
Barbara S. Holt

Vice-President,
Loretta Thompson

Secretary,
David G. O' Steen

Treasurer and PAC Director,
Don Daugherty

National Director,
Emma N. O' Steen

Printing by Randall Printing,
Greensboro, NC

All articles submitted for publication
should be sent to:
Editor, THE CONCEPT
P. O. Box 9282
Greensboro, NC 27429-0282

From the President's Desk

Barbara Holt

On January 18, I had the privilege and pleasure to read the following open letter

from Senator Elizabeth Dole to the members of North Carolina Right to Life. Since that time, I have learned through her staff and National Right to Life that Senator Dole has become a cosponsor of the Brownback-Landrieu legislation to ban all human cloning (S 245) as well as the Santorum Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act (S3). Please thank Senator Dole for her support of these two important pieces of legislation by going to our website www.ncrtl.org and following the directions for the Legislative Scorecard Section.



Senator Elizabeth Dole

An Open Letter to North Carolina Right to Life members

Dear Friends:

Please accept my apologies for not being able to join you in Raleigh. I had the opportunity to meet and speak with some of you last April in Greensboro, and many more of you as I traveled across North Carolina this last year. What a wonderful organization you have! Thank you for letting me share some of my thoughts with you today.

As a person of strong faith, I believe that all life has value and all life is a gift from God. I believe we must foster a culture that respects life. That respect must be afforded to the most vulnerable in our society, including the frail elderly, the infirm, and those not yet born.

I was heartened to read recently that, according to a study released this month by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the numbers of abortions and providers have fallen since the early 1980s and the abortion rate is the lowest since 1974. Sadly, it also showed the number of partial-birth abortions more than tripling in the last four years. You have my commitment that I will continue to work to foster a culture that respects life. I will work for the day when we all recognize that life is valuable, even when it is

unwanted, even when it is weak, even when it is physically imperfect, even when it is vulnerable.

To start, the Senate should pass a bill to ban human cloning and to end the terrible practice of partial birth abortions. Tragically, the last Administration vetoed a ban on partial birth abortions again and again despite its overwhelming public support. I have spoken with friends in the Senate - Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas - and I believe that this year, the Senate will pass legislation to ban this terrible procedure. And President Bush will sign the bill!

I was with the President last year as he addressed our troops and the people of Fayetteville, and it warmed my heart to hear him say, "If you want to help in the war against terrorism, love your neighbor - mentor a child, reach out and make a difference, a positive difference - in the lives of others."

It reminded me of a little book that I love by Henry Drummond called "The Greatest Thing in the World." Drummond focuses on 1 Corinthians Chapter 13, the love chapter, which as you know ends with the words faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love. I always thought that faith would be the greatest thing in the world, but he explains that faith is the means to love because God is love and love is the only thing that lasts. When we reach the end of life, when we're my mother's age and looking into eternity, the only thing we'll be able to take with us is love - those acts of kindness, compassion and caring.

Thank you for your acts of kindness, compassion and caring. You and your organization are doing a wonderful job to help change hearts and persuade minds. May God bless each and every one of you.

With warmest best wishes,
Elizabeth Dole
United States Senator

1500 ATTEND RALLY AND MARCH FOR LIFE MARKING 30th

ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE
1500 pro-lifers from various parts of the state gathered in Raleigh on January 18 to mark the 30th Anniversary of the U. S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy.



The Master of Ceremonies was Christian Polking, a law student at UNC-CH. The Most Reverend F. Joseph Gossman, the Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh, gave the invocation and brief remarks. The North Carolina Knights of Columbus Color Guard presented the colors and led the pledge of allegiance. Loretta Thompson, vice-president of North Carolina Right to Life, read the Presidential Proclamation (see Proclamation on page 1). Barbara Holt, President of North Carolina Right to Life read an letter (see letter on page 2) addressed to the members of North Carolina Right to Life from Senator Elizabeth Dole.



Congressman Walter B. Jones (R-3) spoke on the pro-life legislation that would be coming up in the Congress and about his bill "HR 235, The Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act." This new bill seeks to return the freedom of speech to our nation's houses of worship. The legislation would repeal the authority if the Internal Revenue Service to revoke the tax status of a church, temple, or mosque whose clergy speak out on issues that the IRS deems to be too

political." (website for Congressman Walter B.Jones)



Dr. Anton Usala

A Pediatric Endocrinologist and Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics at East Carolina University, Dr. Usala spoke regarding embryonic stem cells versus adult stem cells. He told the audience what he told Senator Specter in a congressional committee meeting that it wasn't his (Dr. Usala's) belief that the newly formed embryo is a human being but that it was a fact that the tiny embryo is a human being.

Pastor Olden Thornton from the Raleigh International Church gave the Benediction.



Proceeding from the Rally the assembled pro-lifers began the March for Life which passed the Capitol and the Legislative Building before ending at Sacred Heart Cathedral where the Marchers could get refreshments before heading back to their cars or buses to go back home.

The increase in attendance for this year's Rally and March is a credit to the hard work of the committee composed of Rose McCreery, John Long, Ken Fitzgerald, Bob Klein, and Bob Gutjahr, as well as Dennis Embo who arranged for the use of the cathedral, Ed Dobner who arranged for parking, and Kristi O' Connor and Lindsey Morris who helped with the literature tables. Bishop Gossman supported the effort through his verbal communication to the entire Raleigh Diocese through letters read at the masses of the churches in the Raleigh Diocese and his work with the committee to use his office as Bishop to encourage participation in this year's Rally and March. The NC Knights of Columbus in response to the leadership of Bishop Gossman urged its members to participate in greater numbers this year. North Carolina Right to Life thanks all of these people for their efforts in making the Rally and March for Life a tremendous success



4th Annual Prayer Breakfast for Life features Chuck Asay, Editorial Cartoonist

Chuck Asay was the featured speaker at the 4th Annual Prayer Breakfast for Life. 171 pro-lifers from across the state (as far away as New Bern and Hendersonville) attended the breakfast. Mr. Asay challenged and entertained his audience with his cartoons by weaving the audience into the presentation and using his creative talents to draw on an overhead caricatures of some of the participants.

Rev. Tom Vestal gave the blessing and related a personal experience of how his involvement in counseling a young lady to choose life rather than death for her unborn child.

Flora Smith explained the Prayer Partner for Life program and invited those who are not presently Prayer Partners to join the program. She then lead the group in pro-life intercessory prayer and a re-commitment to pro-life

activism.

Ann Jasso, one of our members crocheted an Angel for Life which was auctioned off in a Silent auction. A group of students from Cardinal Gibbons bought the Angel for Life for their advisory who collects angels.

Honorariums & Memorials

To make a donation in memory of or to honor a friend or loved one, send your donation and the name/s of those being remembered or honored to North Carolina Right to Life. Be sure to enclose the name and address of the person who should receive the acknowledgment about the gift. (i.e., the name and address of the person being honored or the name of the person whose loved one is being remembered) If you do not wish your donation to be listed with others in our newsletter, please tell us so we can honor your wishes.

**In Honor of Flora Smith
by
Mary S. Harrison**

Founding Member of Gaston County Right to Life and Board Member of North Carolina Right to Life, James P. Cherry, Sr. Dies

January 27, 2003 James Preston Cherry, Sr. 77 died at Gaston Memorial Hospital. He was the founder of Fidelity Associates, Inc. and a long time supporter of North Carolina Right to Life. He was preceded in death by his wife Eunice: they had 10 children.

Jim Cherry was a founding member of Gaston County Right to Life and served for many years on the Board of Directors of North Carolina Right to Life. His good friend Joe Nelli, who presently serves on the North Carolina Right to Life Board of Directors, lovingly recalled the many hours spent by each of them as they drove to NCRTL board meetings. North Carolina Right to Life has lost a true friend for life. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family at this time of mourning the passing of a man of faith put into action.

Several NCRTL Chapters hold events to commemorate January 22 Anniversary

On Sunday, January 19, 2003, the Randolph County Right to Life Chapter sponsored its sixth annual Pro-Life Interfaith Prayer Service at a local Baptist church. This event has steadily grown over the years as more people in the community are made aware of it through their pastors, and more churches have become involved in other aspects of pro-life activity.

The service typically consists of hymns by the congregation, special music, prayers and can be said to have come from the messages from ministers of different denominations. This year's speakers were from Baptist, Wesleyan and Nazarene churches, and were joined by the director of the local crisis pregnancy center. The evening's offering was for the benefit of this center, which is the only one in the county.

Prior to these yearly services, about fifty of the county's largest and/or most pro-life churches are contacted with information about time and location, and are supplied with bulletin inserts and posters to be placed in prominent locations. An ad is also run in the local newspaper announcing the event.

One of the few good things that has happened because of the *Roe v. Wade* decision is the way Christians of different denominations have come together working for a common cause. We know that God can bring good out of anything, and this is a prime example of His loving concern for His people.

If you are interested in having a similar service in your community or would like information about joining Randolph County RTL, you may contact Bob Smith, Chairman at the e-mail address: fsmith@atomic.net. (Text Provided by Flora Smith)

On January 19, 2003, Pitt County Right To Life held their annual Prayer Vigil on the Pitt County Court House steps in downtown Greenville. Local ministers spoke and gave God's word on how precious life is. Each minister led the approximately 100 people in prayer. Special speakers giving statements on "right to life" progress were Congressman Walter B. Jones (R-3) who will support a bill to ban Partial Birth Abortion and NCRTL President Barbara Holt

Individuals interested in being involved with the local Pitt County Right to Life chapter should contact Judy Eagle, Chairwoman at jewelcol@aol.com (Text

provide by Organizer, Judy Eagle)

Approximately 200 men, women and children braved the cold night air on January 21, 2003 to come to the annual Alamance County Right to Life vigil at the Courthouse in Graham. As in previous years, the dedicated pro-lifers came to hear an inspirational talk by Amy Huffman, spokeswoman for Alamance County Right to Life and one of the vigil organizers, and Leslie Gydos, a young woman who had experienced the trauma of abortion. Ms. Gydos spoke forcefully against abortion because of the damage it inflicts on the mother of the aborted child. After her testimonial, the crowd encircled the courthouse with lit candles to stand in silent prayer remembering the over 40 million unborn children who have lost their lives through abortion and also the families, especially the mothers of these children. For more information about Alamance County Right to Life and how to get involved contact Amy Huffman at huffmanjim@hotmail.com

(Continue from Page 1 General Assembly)

with their elected officials. As pro-life bills are introduced, contact your legislators to ask them to support those pro-life bills. Whatever communications you receive from your elected official, please pass that information on to North Carolina Right to Life so that we can effectively lobby for the passage of that legislation. (E-mail: ncrtl73@aol.com or fax 336-854-8521)

**N. C. Right to Life, Inc.
P. O. Box 9282
Greensboro, NC 27429-0282
Vol. 31 / Issue 1 Feb 2003**