



Transforming society to respect and protect all innocent human life.

Statewide Office Holders Energize Crowd at

Missouri Right to Life's "Show Me Life" Pro-Life Action Day

An enthusiastic, grateful, and hopeful crowd of over 500 people gathered in the capitol rotunda on March 14th for a celebration of life rally. Missouri Right to Life's "Show Me Life" Pro-Life Action Day was a rousing success!

After spending time visiting and encouraging their legislators to pass pro-life legislation, pro-life citizens from across the state came together at a noon rally to hear from many of their statewide pro-life office holders and the keynote speaker, Melissa Ohden. We were led in prayer by pastors from Baptist, Catholic, and Lutheran denominations. Music was provided by the Marks Family Music Ministries.

Missouri pro-lifers exuberantly greeted our newly-elected Governor Eric Greitens with a standing ovation. Governor Greitens greeted the crowd and thanked them for their pro-life convictions. He committed to signing pro-life legislation and making sure that Missouri would not tolerate sanctuary cities for abortion.

After the Governor spoke, we heard from newly elected pro-life office holders Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft and Attorney General Josh Hawley, pro-life Speaker of the House Representative Todd Richardson, and pro-life President Pro Tem of the Senate Ron Richard.

One highlight of the rally was the presence of many college and high school students with Students for Life!

Reagan Barklage, the Western Regional Director of Students for Life, addressed the crowd and told of the pro-life commitment of today's young people. They were there specifically supporting the 20-week abortion ban on pain-capable unborn children.

She and the many students attending also presented hundreds of pages of petition signatures to the Speaker of the House and the President Pro-tem of the Senate.

In addition to the 20-week abortion ban, MRL supports legislation to prevent sanctuary cities for abortion, to prevent the buying and selling of baby body parts, to defund Planned Parenthood, and to push for a clinic inspection bill to hold Planned Parenthood accountable, just to name a few.

The keynote speaker for the "Show Me Life" rally, Melissa Ohden, is the survivor of a saline abortion 39 years ago. Melissa spoke briefly about the abortion procedure that almost took her life, but her primary messages were ones of appreciation for all pro-life activists who she believe saved her life that day and a message of forgiveness for her birth mother and grandmother. She is truly an extraordinary woman who has taken what was a horrible event in her life and, with God's grace, has turned it into blessings.

Missouri has not had a pro-life Governor for 8 years. We have not had a pro-life Secretary of State for 12 years. We have not had a pro-life Attorney General for 24 years. We do now! The House of Representatives is a super pro-life majority of 117, and the Missouri Senate is a super pro-life majority of 24.

Missouri pro-lifers, through Missouri Right to Life PACs, have worked hard to elect pro-life leaders on the state and national levels. And our work is not done!

The MRL Federal PAC is preparing for a battle to defeat pro-abortion U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill in 2018 to help achieve a 60-vote super majority in the U.S. Senate.

Action Alert

Confirm Neil Gorsuch Now!

At press time, the Senate Judiciary Committee may have concluded its work on the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court. A fight before the full Senate is expected to begin this month and may be continuing as you are receiving this *MRL News*.

Advocacy groups opposed to Judge Gorsuch, including NARAL and other radical pro-abortion groups, are stepping up their vehement attacks on the nominee. Senate Democrats are planning to use a filibuster to obstruct Judge Gorsuch's confirmation.

If the confirmation procedure is still taking place, it is vitally important that you communicate immediately with your U.S. senators -- especially Senator Claire McCaskill -- to urge the prompt confirmation of Judge Gorsuch.

On the home page of National Right to Life (nrlc.org), a link is provided for emails to our senators. National Right to Life has provided a suggested message that is generally appropriate, but you can modify it in any manner you desire. After you've finished modifying the message to your satisfaction, click "send message" to send the message to Senator McCaskill and Senator Blunt.

Pictures from "Show Me Life" Pro-Life Action Day inside

Hope you were there for Missouri Right to Life's Pro-Life Action Day!

Over 500 pro-life Missourians joined together on March 14th in Jefferson City to celebrate life and to urge their representatives and senators to pass pro-life legislation. Energized by good words from some of our elected pro-life office holders, they were encouraged to keep up the good fight to protect life.

Shown at the right addressing the crowd is Gov. Eric Greitens, then clockwise, Sec. of State Jay Ashcroft, Attorney General Josh Hawley, and Speaker of the House Todd Richardson. A group from MRL-East Central Area Chapter join their State Representative Justin Alferman. Also speaking to those gathered is Senate Pro Tem Ron Richard. Finally, Missouri Right to Life President Steve Rupp's message to the crowd -- don't give up, keep fighting, push harder, dig deeper, we're winning.... for LIFE!



Thank you!

It's time. Time to thank you! You are the one who makes the work of Missouri Right to Life possible. Together we are fulfilling the mission, the work given by God. Thank you for making it possible, for always being there, for praying with us, for working with us, and for making your donations to support our critical mission!

From the Field Development Director ~

Wow, have we been busy!

I have served as the Field Development Director for Missouri Right to Life since November 2016, and it has been a pleasure meeting and working with all of our devoted pro-life activists across the state. While I was familiar with the mission of MRL when I came on board, I had no idea of the pivotal role that it has played and continues to play in pro-life efforts in Missouri.

MRL has been the backbone of countless pro-life victories: the 1999 infant protection act, which legally protects babies who are born alive and restricts partial-birth abortions; the 2003 Women's Right to Know Act, which safeguards women from coerced abortions by requiring consent of the woman at least 24 hours prior to the procedure (now 72 hours as of 2014.) MRL also worked tirelessly to stop human cloning and embryonic stem cell research, and has prevented the funding of that research with state tax dollars. There are over 45 laws in our statutes to regulate abortion and protect life to the extent that the U.S. Supreme Court will allow. MRL also supports alternatives to abortion, and tax credits for those who contribute to any of the 70 pregnancy resource centers in the state.



Kaley Graves

Our chapter network acts as a vehicle for delivering the pro-life message to our communities. These chapters are an invaluable resource that helps mobilize our citizens on life issues. Studies show that face-to-face interaction enacts more measurable change than any other advocacy approach, and our chapters do just that. They organize local rallies and events that engage the public and inform them on the range of issues we face on the regional, state, and national levels. They also coordinate with their district representatives in order to secure public favor for pro-life bills and other life-saving legislation. I've witnessed the power of the grassroots first-hand. I introduced myself at the state-wide meeting in November, and things have taken off from there. I've attended several chapter meetings with regions across the state, including Raytown and Springfield. In January I spoke at the annual memorial observance at the Sedalia courthouse which gained a lot of support from the community and resulted in positive news coverage.

MRL's website offers helpful information regarding federal and local pro-life issues. Missourilife.org provides access to our policies, past and present legislation, Missouri law, news, issues, events, and information on our speakers' bureau. You can also sign-up to volunteer or receive weekly updates on pro-life news and events in your area. MRL runs two Facebook pages as well: Missouri Right to Life, which is geared towards legislation, and Missouri Right to Life Political Action Committee, which deals specifically with MRL PAC endorsements.. Our social media is a convenient way to keep yourself updated on critical pro-life happenings.

MRL has accomplished so much since its founding 43 years ago, but we are not done yet! We have our sights set on 2017 and future legislative goals, such as banning dismemberment and sex-selected abortions, abortion facility inspections, ensuring ambulatory surgical center regulations are followed, stopping sanctuary cities for abortion, a ban on abortion at 20 weeks based on the Pain Capability of the Unborn Child, two-parent notification prior to a minor having an abortion, and many more pro-life protections.

These past months have been profoundly encouraging as Missouri has truly set an example for the rest of the nation of what can be accomplished in defending the sanctity of life. There is no other organization that has mobilized its citizens the way Missouri Right to Life has. I cannot wait to see what the future holds!

Respectfully,
Kaley Graves

We broke the chain

Back back, way back. Forty-four years ago after the U.S. Supreme Court decisions legalized abortion-on-demand for any reason.... or no reason at all, there were those who said we had broken the sacredness of the continuum of life. We had broken the chain.

All of these years later, the proof of just how right they were is before our eyes. Not only have we killed millions of unborn babies, we often kill the little ones born “less than perfect.” We rationalize killing those who are a burden. We offer assisted suicide. We kill our elderly.

Life is a continuum. Each part is connected. When one link of the chain is broken, all others are weakened.

As pro-life people, we really don’t need to be reminded. We know and grieve. Yet sometimes we read an account that causes tears to flow... that touches us to the very core.

Here is one such account. And it is not unusual. God have mercy on our souls.



Mild Stroke Leads to Mother’s Forced Death by Starvation and Dehydration

~ by Kate Kelly

I watched an old woman die of hunger and thirst. She had Alzheimer’s. This old woman was child-like, trusting, vulnerable, with a child’s delight at treats of chocolate and ice cream, and a child’s fear and frustration when tired or ill.

I watched her die for six days and nights. I watched her suffer, and I listened to the medical practitioners, to a son who legally decided her fate, and to an eldest daughter who advised him and told me that the old woman, my mother, was “comfortable,” except when she was “in distress,” at which times the nurses medicated her to make her “comfortable” again.

I watched the old woman develop ulcerations inside her mouth as she became more and more dehydrated; the caregivers assured me these were not painful. I listened to her breathing become more and more labored as her lungs became congested from the morphine administered every two to four hours, and later every hour. This is what morphine does, you see. It relieves pain, but its cumulative effect is that eventually it shuts down the respiratory system.

No one explained why the old woman was given morphine in the first place, since she was conscious and trying to speak. It is normal that a mild stroke causes temporary inability to swallow, slurred speech, and a severe headache, but all of these are

often reversed when the stroke victim is treated and the treatment includes nourishment and water.

The explanation for not giving nourishment and water — a feeding tube and IV (intravenous) — is that these were “extraordinary measures” for keeping someone alive.

I watched the old woman day and night for six days. The first night, after the first

woman’s eyes started to open, and the air escaping from the lungs sounded exactly like a moan of agony, as the old woman’s face twisted in horrible contortions.

I screamed, “Her eyes are opening. Oh, God. Oh, God!” Even as the morphine, quickly injected by a disconcerted nurse, caused the old woman’s eyes to close and her face to relax. I doubted its efficacy. I thought back to the night before when I,

in tears at the old woman’s slow dying, had been confronted by a delegation of four of the nursing staff, each of them in turn trying to convince me that the old woman was not suffering in any way at all. The morphine,

“I watched the old woman develop ulcerations inside her mouth as she became more and more dehydrated; the caregivers assured me these were not painful.”

shot of morphine, her mouth hung open and her tongue started to roll and flutter. At the same time, her jaw trembled continuously. This went on all night and into the early hours of the morning. Her mouth never closed again, except to clamp tightly on wet cloths placed on her lips. Her eyes were partially closed, but they moved back and forth, back and forth, becoming small slits after seven or eight hours, not closing fully until that long first night was over. She opened her eyes only once after that, when the nurse was late with the morphine, on the third, or maybe fourth, day.

The old woman started to moan. Not moaning, said the nurses and the old woman’s eldest daughter. Just air escaping from the lungs. Not moaning at all. The old

they said, takes away all pain.

But, I answered them, she can feel. She’s squeezing my hand and, if I try to take my hand out of hers, she squeezed tighter and, when I hold a little piece of gauze to her lips, she tries to suck the water out of it. She’s thirsty! This is a horror, this is a cruelty. No, they said. She’s not thirsty. It’s just reflex. But, I tell them, I watched her clamp her lips on the gauze so tightly that I had to pull to get it out of her mouth.

She reacts when you touch her feet, her legs, and her hair. If she can feel that, she can feel thirst, I plead with them. It’s not the same, they tell me. She’s not in pain. I look at her. But what if you’re wrong? I say. What if you’re wrong? They stand

there, saying nothing. Then, one looks at the old woman and says we'd better turn her now. She and another care worker go about the business of re-positioning the old woman, to keep her "comfortable" and the other two leave.

The nights and days went in and out of focus. I sat in a chair at the side of the old woman's bed, one hand grasped tightly by her hand. I slept an hour or two, here and there, waking always with a start. "I'm here," I murmured, so the old woman would know I was keeping the promise I made to her on the first night, after her son and eldest daughter left to get some food, drink, and rest. I promised her then, "I will not leave here until you do."

The old woman was fading by the fourth day. Her eldest daughter had been visiting for an hour or so each day, usually mid-morning. This daughter, a former hospital worker, lightly stroked her mother's face and hair and timed the length of her mother's "breath apnea," the length of time her mother stopped breathing. She announced the number of seconds and then counted the number of breaths between each stopped breath. Seven breaths, she said. Eleven breaths.

Sometimes she described the progress of her mother's death. She's probably down to about 60 pounds now, she pronounced. Sometimes — I'm not sure when I first noticed it — the nurses asked us to leave while they attended to the old woman. Other times they didn't. Once, perhaps on the fourth day, I told them I didn't have to leave. I had watched them turn her and I had seen her tiny naked body as they gently washed her. I didn't even flinch anymore when they injected the syringe of morphine.

We have to give her a suppository, they said. A suppository? Why? For anxiety, they said. Anxiety. So that she would appear to die with dignity. The morphine was no longer enough. This courageous old woman, who could face, who had faced, unimaginable hardships with nothing but her faith and her dignity, she could teach you about dignity, I thought to myself.

On the fifth day, the eldest daughter visited twice. On her second visit, several staff members entered the room with her. They were all talking loudly, about nothing in particular, except for one care worker, fond of the old woman, who walked over to the bed and called the old woman's name loudly enough to interrupt the others' light conversation. She examined the old woman's hands, lifted the sheet covering her and looked at her legs and feet. She called the old woman's name again, and the care worker's face showed alarm.

How long has it been? She asked. She's not even mottling! (Mottling is the term given to describe the blackening of the feet and hands as the body, dehydrating, tries to preserve the vital organs by stopping the flow of blood to the limbs.) You know, continued the care worker, I don't think it's her time. It's been, what, five days? If she had been ready to go, she'd have gone in 24 hours. The room went quiet. The care worker and I looked at each other. You're right, I said. The eldest daughter and one of the nurses began to tell her she was wrong, and a nurse hustled her out of the room.

By the sixth night I was not sure I could go on. I slept for an hour or so every four or five hours. I still sat in the chair by her bed, but now I slept with head on the bed, near her stomach. The old woman's breathing was labored, her will to live defying the system and the foolish young doctor who, on that first night, gave her 24 hours to live, as though he were God Himself.

My heart was breaking for her. I could do nothing to save her, could do nothing but suffer with her. I cried much of the time, but softly, so she would not know. I

didn't want to add to her agony. I had been there six days. She could no longer hold my hand, so I slipped my hand gently under hers. I felt an anguish so profound that I began to wonder if I could survive it.

In a split second, the frown that had creased the line between her brows was smoothed away. Her head rested gently to one side. Two care workers entered the room. I saw them in my peripheral vision, but I kept my gaze on the old woman. We're just going to turn her, one of the workers said. No, I said, my mother is dying. One of them left to get a nurse, and then the old woman — my dear mother, my little, child-like, beautiful mother — died.

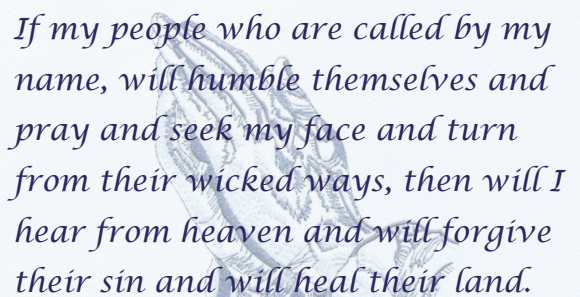
I put my arms around her, kissed her poor, closed eyes and her now relaxed mouth, and held her limp, tiny body, no more struggling for breath. I watched an old woman die of hunger and thirst. I watched her die for six days and nights. I watched her suffer, and struggle, and hold onto life.

She had not always found life easy, but she had always found it worthwhile. She was 94 years old. She had been born and had lived all her life in Canada. She had worked hard all her life, married, raised three children, voted, paid taxes, saved enough money to buy her own home, obeyed the laws, donated to charity, done volunteer work, paid her bills, and given much love and brought much joy to many, many people in her 94 years.

In return, in the spring of 2009, her son and her eldest daughter, with the permission and assistance of the law, because this old woman had had a mild stroke, refused her food and water. She could not swallow, so she would have needed the food and water administered artificially.

And the youngest daughter could do nothing except watch her mother die slowly, and write this, in the hope that my mother's death, like her life, will have made a difference.

Kate Kelly writes for Human Life Alliance. This story was posted on LifeNews.com on January 13, 2017.



If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14



Federal judge defers ruling on Missouri abortion rules

A federal judge is weighing whether to block Missouri regulations that the state's Planned Parenthood clinics argue in a lawsuit illegally restrict access to abortion in the state.

U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs deferred a ruling Tuesday [March 20] after hearing arguments over the preliminary injunction request by two Planned Parenthoods with Missouri health centers.

The November lawsuit came five months after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down similar Texas rules. Like the Texas rules, the Missouri ones require doctors performing abortions to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and forced clinics to meet hospital-like outpatient surgery standards.

An attorney for the state argued Tuesday that filings in the Texas case were less complete and persuasive than those in the Missouri one, and that halting the Missouri regulations would endanger women. *(Editor's note: There are other circumstances that differentiate Missouri laws from Texas in this case.)*

Fox2Now.com 3/21/17

Missouri House gives 1st-round approval to stop sanctuary cities for abortion

On March 28, the Missouri House gave first round approval to HCS HB 174. HCS HB 174 would give clear protection to the religious liberty of alternatives-to-abortion agencies and their agents to freely engage in religious practices and speech without government interference.

In HCS HB 174, a political subdivision of this state is preempted from enacting, adopting, or enforcing any ordinance or any other form of regulation that would interfere with, or otherwise adversely affect, an alternatives-to-abortion agency or any other religious organizations and their agents' operations or speech.

HCS HB 174 is necessary because an ordinance (BB 203) was passed by the Board of Aldermen in the City of St. Louis. This ordinance attacks and threatens the deeply held moral and religious convictions of the people of St. Louis by seeking to make St. Louis a "sanctuary city" for abortion.

Unless HCS HB 174 is enacted, BB 203 will force churches and others to be complicit in the profound evil of abortion. Today the House, with a vote of 116 to 34, took the first step to correct this situation.

It is expected that HCS HB 174 will be in the Senate by the time you receive this newsletter. Governor Greitens has committed to signing this legislation.

MRL press release 3/28/17

Planned Parenthood designs abortion clinic to look like Starbucks, Apple Store

Planned Parenthood's "flagship" abortion facility in Northeast D.C. was designed so patients can feel like they're in a combination of Starbucks, the Apple Store, and Anthropologie, according to its CEO.

A piece in Washingtonian magazine showcases photos of the abortion center, "the most thoughtfully designed of all the organization's facilities nationwide."

Exam room art, like "graphics of an IUD, speaking bubbles, and a condom" is "meant to signal that patients can ask anything without fear of judgment." (Just hope they don't ask for prenatal care or an ultrasound – Planned Parenthood probably won't be able to help them with that.)

The facility "cleverly" conceals "elaborate safety precautions." Such safety precautions include cacti, which "look like cute decor, but their razor-sharp spines can be used to injure an attacker." Its front desk "doubles as a barrier staff can duck behind" (brilliant!).

The article makes it sound like Planned Parenthood employees are constantly at risk. There is no mention of the threats pro-life activists receive from abortion supporters.

No amount of modern design or hot pink walls can make up for the hideous truth about abortion: a successful abortion always ends with a dead baby.

LifeSiteNews 3/29/17

More medical emergencies at St. Louis Planned Parenthood

Two medical emergencies at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood have occurred during the present 40 Days for Life. The second emergency on March 24th came just 13 days after the previous one.

40 Days for Life participants witnessed an ambulance arrive at the Planned Parenthood. Paramedics brought a woman from the clinic on a stretcher while clinic employees held a sheet to block the view.

This second ambulance of the spring 2017 40 Days for Life campaign is the 65th

known medical emergency at this location since 2009. "We consider this the most dangerous abortion facility in the U.S.," said Operation Rescue President Troy Newman.

Call your state legislators and ask them why they have not yet passed the abortion clinic inspection bill, which might have saved some of these women from harm. Contact information is available through a link on the MRL home page at www.missourilife.org.



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Pro-Life Across Missouri

save the date

Thursday,
May 4

National Day of Prayer ~
Gatherings to be held in numerous locations across the state. To find one in your area, go to www.nationaldayofprayer.org

Saturday,
June 10

Missouri Right to Life Statewide Meeting ~ 10 a.m.
at Pleus Hall, 1208 E. McCarty, Jefferson City. **All are welcome.** Lunch will be provided.

Thursday,
June 29 –
Saturday,
July 1

National Right to Life Convention, Milwaukee WI~
The National Right to Life Convention is the essential pro-life educational and training event of the year. And easy to get to this year! Additional information on the back cover.



Metro Voices' event, Christian Education Expo, is nineteen years strong at Colonial Presbyterian Church in Kansas City MO. Missouri Right to Life volunteers Stan McClatchey and Beth Sykora (far right) of MRL-Western Region shared a booth at the event with Kansans for Life and their three volunteers.

In Beth's words, "Tons of people came to both the event and our mutual booth, really liking it!"

Thanks Beth, Stan, and our fellow Kansans for Life volunteers!

She's counting on you!

1, 2, 3 . . .

1. Pray for a return of respect for life!
2. Continue defending life!
3. Send your most generous gift to support the mission of Missouri Right to Life!



Thank You!

Memorials

In memory or in honor of a loved one or a friend, these gifts were made to Missouri Right to Life.

In honor of ~

Amelia Lynn Hronick
Neil Venneman

Given by ~

Richard & Peggy Hronick
Joe Venneman

In memory of ~

Father Timothy Bannes
Anne Bannon, M.D.
Alicia Brauer
Jean Herold


Given by ~

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RIGHT TO LIFE
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KEEPING
TOMORROW
ALIVE

National Right to Life Convention 2017

June 29 to July 1 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The National Right to Life Convention is:

- 3 Full Days
- More Than 100 Pro-Life Speakers
- More Than 100 Sessions

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Hyatt Regency Milwaukee
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Milwaukee, WI 53203
milwaukee.regency.hyatt.com

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Call 888-233-1234 for reservations.

