



THE AMERICAN FEMINISTSM

Feminists for Life of America[©]

Remarkable Pro★Life Women III



Feminists for Life honors the many contributions of pro-life women.

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"When a man steals to satisfy hunger, we may safely conclude that there is something wrong in society—so when a woman destroys the life of her unborn child, it is an evidence that either by education or circumstances she has been greatly wronged." — Mattie Brinkerhoff, *The Revolution*, September 2, 1869



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|| What is our responsibility toward the interdependent reality that is a pregnant woman? We can challenge both pro-choice and pro-life rhetoric by refusing an exclusive focus on either the woman or the fetus."



ACADEMIA

Amy Laura Hall

AMY LAURA HALL, assistant professor of theological ethics at Duke Divinity School, Duke University, challenges students and peers to question abortion, and demonstrates her commitment to women and children by example.

When she was interviewed for a recent article regarding the *Roe v. Wade* decision in a Duke University publication, Hall stated, "*Roe v. Wade* was also, for some, a concession made in the face of a society unwilling to make room for women and children in the larger economy." She cited current limited maternity leave options for pregnant women (soon to be changed) at Duke as an example of this phenomenon. "Since *Roe v. Wade*, women have entered all sectors of the workforce, but the workforce has hardly changed to accommodate the fact that women have babies. . . This is, increasingly, a culture that accepts abortion as a tool to keep women compliant with the norms of the U.S. market," Hall observed. "I find *Roe v. Wade* to be a dubious victory for women and children."

As an undergraduate student at Emory University in the late 1980s, Dr. Hall founded an undergraduate feminist forum called CHOICES. As a professor in one of this country's top universities, she continually breaks through the barriers that many women encounter within the male-dominated world of academia. She challenges the administration at Duke and at other universities to recognize the needs of women within their communities.

Hall also challenges women to be vigilant in this effort. In an address to the Emory University Women's Center in 1999, she asserted, "Women like you and [me] are, in greater numbers, storming that smoke-filled men's room that is the academy. And as we get there, we must vow (to ourselves and to others who will hold us accountable) that we will help other women enter and alter the system." Her own efforts include ongoing lobbying for a day care center within a new building project at Duke Divinity School.

Hall's academic pursuits focus on bioethics, the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard and analysis of traditional Christian texts. She speaks out against the Human Genome Project, a 13-year effort by the Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health to identify and

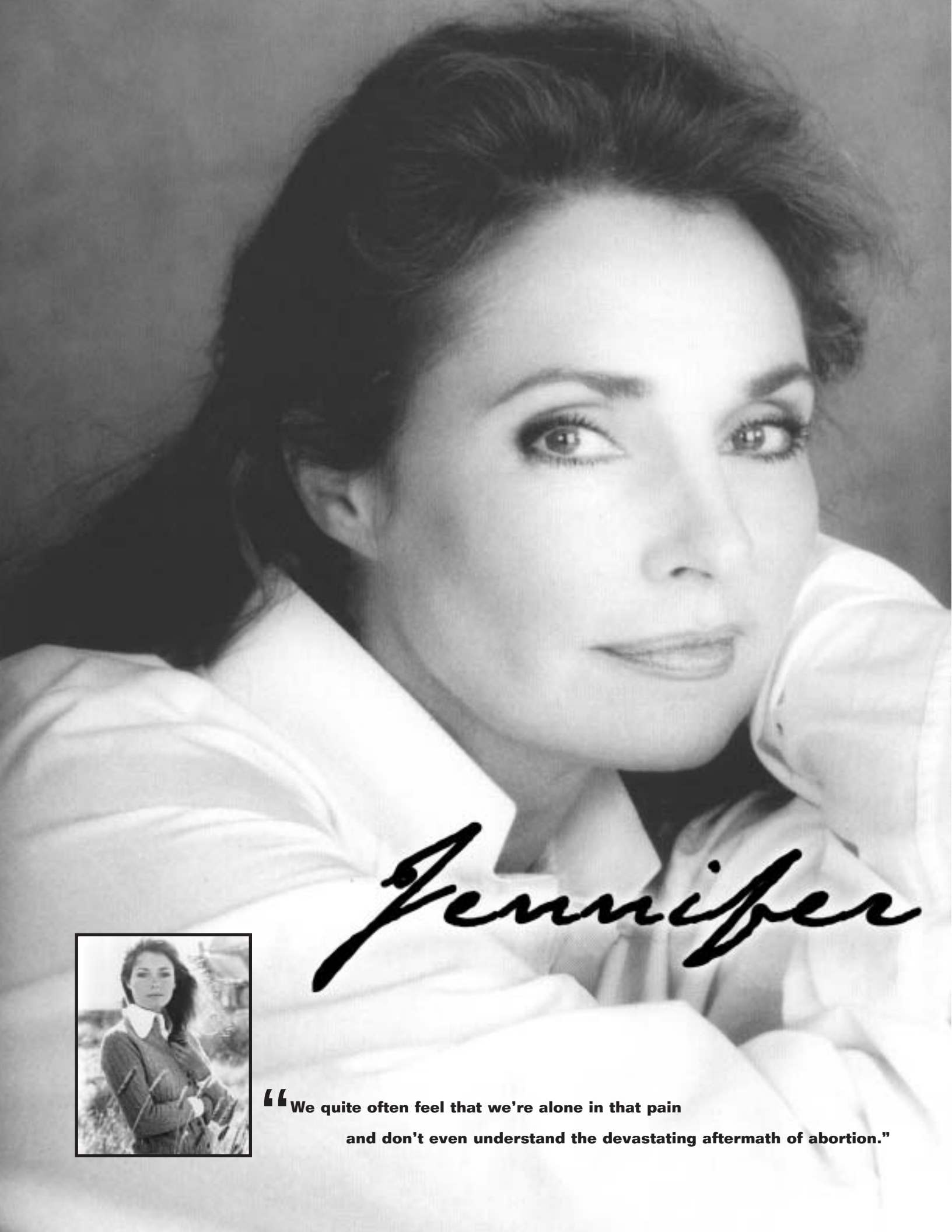
analyze the 30,000 genes in human DNA, saying, "Potential children are the most malleable objects of genetic technology, and in order fully to acknowledge the dangers involved with the Human Genome Project, we must attend to how we are using this technology on our future offspring. . . We will be able to assess in utero the fetus's potential to grow into a viable contestant in our pursuit of happiness. If she promises instead to become a drastic hindrance to our hopes for beauty and enjoyment, we may try again for a more compliant child."

Hall is in the midst of writing *Conceiving Parenthood*, which reflects on the damaging effects of biotechnological advancements on middle-class America's outlook on parenthood. In this work, she identifies and defines what she calls "consumer parenting." She contends that the increase in technological advances leads to the expectation of the perfect child and encourages limiting and exclusive attitudes towards life and motherhood. She writes, "Not only does this quest conceive middle-class children as biotechnological projects for manipulation, it serves to label working-class and poor children as woefully unplanned."

Hall received her B.A. in 1990 from Emory College and her M.Div. from Yale Divinity School in 1993. After serving as a pastor in the United Methodist Church, she returned to Yale University to pursue her Ph.D. in religious ethics, which she received in December 1999. She is married to an academic, and they have a daughter they adopted from an agency that specializes in hard-to-place children. Hall embodies pro-life feminism to her students when she lectures in class with her daughter in her arms. ○



PAST REMARKABLE PRO-LIFE WOMEN IN ACADEMIA (above):
Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, Sydney Callahan, Mary Ann Glendon



Jennifer



**“We quite often feel that we’re alone in that pain
and don’t even understand the devastating aftermath of abortion.”**



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JENNIFER O'NEILL began modeling at the age of fifteen and attained international notice when she starred in the film *Summer of '42* (inset picture left) when she was twenty-two years old. She went on to star in more than thirty films and numerous television movies, studied film directing with Italian auteur

Luchino Visconti, and was the spokesperson for Cover Girl Cosmetics for an unprecedented thirty years. O'Neill has written two books, an autobiography, *Surviving Myself*, and a recent book, *From Fallen to Forgiven*, and has recorded a CD entitled "Love Never Fails."

O'Neill has served as chairperson for the American Cancer Society and the Arthritis Foundation. Having loved animals since childhood, she raises funds for animal charities and breeds, raises, trains and shows champion jumping horses on her farm in Nashville, Tenn. She's also the proud mother of a daughter, Amy, and sons, Reese and Cooper, as well as the grandmother of four. O'Neill presents inspirational pro-life lectures across the country, and serves on the board of Media Fellowship International, an organization that brings Christians in the media and entertainment together.

As spokeswoman for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, O'Neill has shared her personal story in front of many audiences, including at a Senate briefing. After having been coerced into

2002, O'Neill stated, "The aftermath of an abortion can be as equally deadly to the mother as it was to her unborn child. A choice that she had to make. A choice that, for the most part, she made without the benefit of unbiased medical facts. The possibilities of risks to her health, to her emotional well being. It's absolutely devastating and she's sentenced to bear that for the rest of her life... Women are suffering physically, emotionally and spiritually."

As someone whose mother is fighting breast cancer, O'Neill also condemns those who refuse to acknowledge the abortion-breast cancer link, asking, "Why is the elevated risk of getting breast cancer such a secret? Why don't we have guidelines for those at higher risk from abortion in order to detect breast cancer earlier? So-called women's advocates refer to this information as a 'scare tactic.' Getting and not treating breast cancer is a much more frightening issue. The truth will set you free in more ways than one!"

Millions watched as she shared the truth about regretting her abortion on ABC's talk show, "The View," aired live for the 30th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. She never lost her composure as she was publicly berated by the co-hosts.

"I was merely there trying to be the voice of those who have had abortions since I've written two books and have been traveling in the last five years, with the amazing opportunity to speak to thousands and thousands of individuals who have the same cry I did," O'Neill told *Citizen* magazine. "We quite often

having an abortion by her fiancé, she went on to suffer through nine miscarriages, in addition to "years of emotional, physical, mental and spiritual pain of that experience."

In her testimony before the U.S. Senate on September 23,

feel that we're alone in that pain and don't even understand the devastating aftermath of abortion."

Afterwards O'Neill was deluged by support from women who have experienced abortion. ○

PAST REMARKABLE PRO-LIFE WOMEN IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT (above):

Two-time Emmy winner and FFL Honorary Chair Patricia Heaton, FFL Honorary Co-chair Margaret Colin, Dolores O'Riordan, Hunter Tylo, Kate Mulgrew, Loretta Young.

KATHY IRELAND

KATHY IRELAND GAINED ATTENTION as the first “supermodel” and then moved on to acting and making fitness videos. In recent years she has become a successful CEO of her own company, Kathy Ireland Worldwide. The company produces a clothing line, exercise equipment and a home furnishings collection, and inspired the National Association of Women Business Owners to name Ireland the Entertainment Businesswoman of the Year. She also received the National Association of Business Leaders Award.

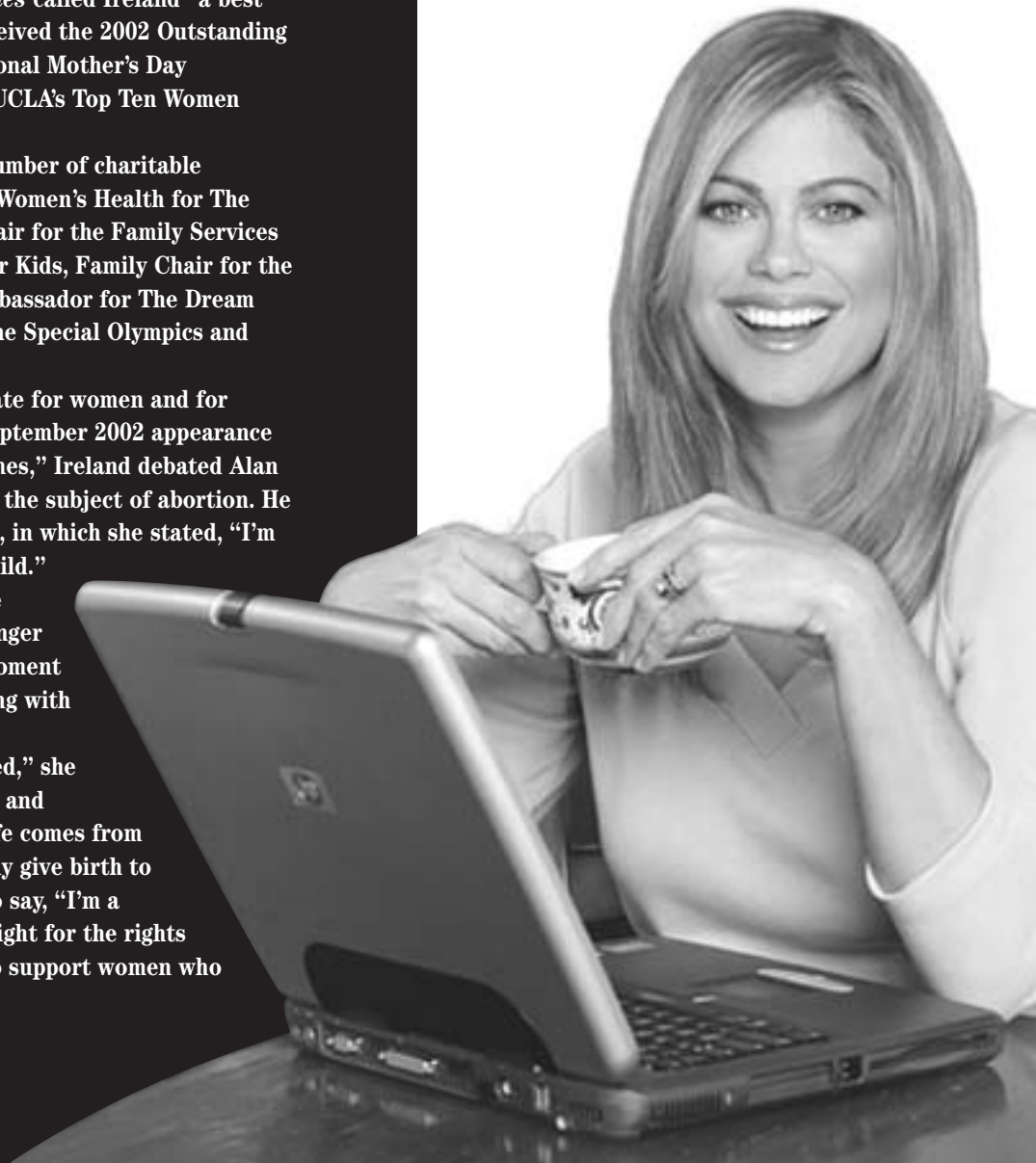
In 2002 Ireland co-authored a book called *Powerful Inspirations: Eight Lessons That Will Change Your Life*. In the book, she shares personal anecdotes and lessons she has learned. Her Web site, *KathyIreland.com*, features information for parents and families. As a wife and mother of two children, she strives to help other professional mothers.

The Associated Press and *London Times* called Ireland “a best friend to working mothers,” and she received the 2002 Outstanding Mother of the Year Award from the National Mother’s Day Committee. She was also named one of UCLA’s Top Ten Women Health Advocates in America.

Ireland fills significant roles with a number of charitable organizations, including Ambassador of Women’s Health for The Entertainment Industry Foundation, Chair for the Family Services Division of Athletes and Entertainers for Kids, Family Chair for the Kmart Kids Race Against Drugs, and Ambassador for The Dream Foundation. She has also worked with the Special Olympics and Feed the Children.

Ireland has been an outspoken advocate for women and for children—both born and unborn. In a September 2002 appearance on Fox News Channel’s “Hannity & Colmes,” Ireland debated Alan Colmes, the program’s liberal pundit, on the subject of abortion. He played a clip from an earlier appearance, in which she stated, “I’m liberal about the rights of the unborn child.” She explained that once she realized the humanity of the unborn, she could no longer take a pro-choice position. “From the moment of conception, a new life comes into being with a complete genetic blueprint. The sex is determined. The blood type is determined,” she said. “It doesn’t start out as one species and suddenly become a human being... All life comes from pre-existing life... Human beings can only give birth to other human beings.” Ireland went on to say, “I’m a person who always has and always will fight for the rights of women”—and emphasized the need to support women who are in crisis pregnancy situations. ○

“I’m a person who
always has and
always will fight
for the rights of
”
WOMEN





U.S. Representative Melissa Hart

AT THE 2003 MARCH FOR LIFE in Washington, second-term Representative Melissa Hart (R-Pa.) joined her constituents from southwestern Pennsylvania in a show of solidarity and support for unborn children and their mothers. "Today, we have marched for life and renewed our commitment to the notion that all life is sacred," she said.

Elected to Congress in 2000 after serving ten years in the Pennsylvania Senate, Hart has sponsored or co-sponsored several measures calling for greater protection and assistance for children born and unborn and for the mothers who care for them. "Being pro-life is the right thing to do," said Hart in *Our Sunday Visitor*. "I don't know how you can argue otherwise. It's a matter of

looking at the facts, and when you do it's a pretty easy decision." And she has promised to forge on, most recently by helping to bring about the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. "I will continue working to restore some civility to our society by strongly supporting initiatives that protect the unborn."

During her first term in Congress, she introduced an amendment banning federal funds for schools that provide the abortifacient RU-486 to teenage students. Although the measure was tabled at the time, a determined Hart reintroduced the bill in February 2003.

In 2002, Hart co-sponsored the Child Custody Protection Act, designed to outlaw the transport of a minor across state lines to procure an abortion—a common strategy to skirt

PAST REMARKABLE PRO-LIFE WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT (at right):

President Mary MacAlaese (Ireland), President Corazon Aquino (The Philippines), Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (Pakistan), U.S. Rep. Anne Meagher Northup (R-Kan.), Gov. Joan Finney (Kan.), State Rep. Sharon Weston (La.), State Rep. Patricia A. Lockwood (Mich.), State Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (Minn.).

GOVERNMENT

U.S. Rep. Melissa Hart *(cont.)*

the home state parental consent laws. She also co-sponsored the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which makes it a federal crime to injure or kill an unborn child while attacking the mother.

Hart supports a ban on human cloning and advocates for the Ethical Stem Cell Research Act, which would sustain research of stem cells garnered from sources other than embryos or aborted fetuses. She has also contributed to bills aimed at eliminating child pornography on the Internet.

Most notably, Hart helped introduce the Born Alive Infant Protection Act, which grants legal protection to a child born alive during an abortion attempt. This Act was signed into law by President George W. Bush in Pittsburgh in August 2002, and

Hart was on hand to witness the occasion.

Hart's commitment extends to those women struggling to raise families and improve their circumstances. She supported a recent welfare measure that increases child care funding for entitled parents. She is now working to pass the Homemaker Employment Assistance & Lifeskills (HEAL) Act to secure better wages for women in non-traditional jobs.

Hart remains a consistent and effective champion for women and their unborn children, motivated by a core belief: "All too often, abortion is turned into an issue of politics, when it is truly an issue of life." ○

“Being pro-life is the right

thing to do. I don't know how

you can argue otherwise.

It's a matter of looking at the facts, and when you do

it's a pretty easy decision.”



Rep. Melissa Hart, primary sponsor of the Victims of Unborn Violence Act; Tracy Marciniak, who lost her son Zachariah through an act of violence shortly before his due date; Rep. Steve Chabot, who chairs the Judiciary Constitution Subcommittee and FFL President Serrin Foster gather after presenting testimony in a packed hearing room. Foster's testimony can be found at www.feministsforlife.org.



U.S. Representative **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen**

AS A MOTHER who raised two daughters and gained a stepdaughter through marriage, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) passionately champions the Child Custody Protection Act. “Just as we’ve pursued sexual predators who prey on children through the Internet and cracked down on drug dealers who corner our children at school, we must punish those who put our daughters in physical danger simply because they won’t take responsibility for the pregnancies they create.” Motivated by horror stories of children taken across state lines by adult men attempting to cover up statutory rape through abortion, Ros-Lehtinen authored the bill that would make this a criminal offense.

Ros-Lehtinen is the first Hispanic woman and the first Cuban American to hold office in the U.S. Congress. She has initiated pro-life legislation both in the Florida legislature and in the House of Representatives, where she has served the 18th Congressional District since 1989. She is co-sponsor of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act and advocates zero tolerance towards coercive population control programs abroad.

“I ardently support efforts to protect the dignity of women and children. As women, we have a unique role in society, to nurture and protect that dignity. Such dignity is

only possible if it is promoted on every level.”

“It is a sad irony—that the majority of women lawmakers on Capitol Hill are at odds with the early [suffragists’] view of abortion as the ‘ultimate exploitation of women,’ ” Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen notes along with her colleagues, Reps. Barbara Cubin, Jo Ann Davis, Jo Ann Emerson, Melissa Hart, and Sue Myrick. “Abortion,” they continue, “is a tragedy for every woman involved. . . . Those of us who are proudly pro-life are a minority among our colleagues in Congress. But we believe this can and will change.”

Today Ros-Lehtinen is raising up a new generation of pro-life leaders both at home and on the Hill. This summer, she sponsored the Women Deserve Better® Campaign briefing for congressional interns so they, too, might question abortion, reclaim the heritage of our feminist foremothers, and help eliminate the root causes of abortion.

In her recent speech supporting the ban on partial-birth abortion, Ros-Lehtinen asserted courageously that “women deserve better than to endure the physical and emotional pain and suffering associated with partial-birth abortion, and children deserve the chance to live.” ○

“Abortion is a tragedy for every woman involved.”

Governor Ella Grasso

I N M E M O R I A M

ELLA GRASSO WAS ELECTED the first woman governor in the United States in 1975 and became a symbol for women in politics. She remained true to her convictions, not swayed by trends or lobbyists. Never forgetting her hometown of Windsor Locks, Conn., where she lived for most of her life, Grasso's focus remained on the people of Connecticut and their welfare, particularly children and families.

Grasso began her political life by joining the League of Women Voters in 1943, and she proceeded to have a long and distinguished career in government. She served in the Connecticut General Assembly from 1952 to 1956, and served on the Democratic National Committee from 1956 to 1958. She then served as Secretary of the State for Connecticut from 1958 to 1970. She went on to represent Connecticut in the U.S. House of Representatives, from 1970 to 1974, where she served on the Education and Labor and Veterans' Affairs Committees, fighting to create and protect jobs.

In 1974, she became the first woman governor in the United States to be elected on her own merits - all previous female governors had been wives of former governors. She held the position for two terms, from 1975 to 1981, until her battle with cancer caused her to step down in 1981. In her twenty-eight years as a public servant, she never lost an election.

Grasso's focus during those years was not her own political career as much as the opportunity to make positive changes in Connecticut. She was a trailblazer for women across the United States, making inroads in a traditionally male environment. Her political career began at a time when women politicians were scarce, particularly in higher offices. American women politicians, legislators and public servants everywhere owe a great deal to Ella Grasso. Grasso combined efficient economic policy and thoughtful social programs. Her door was always open to her constituents in every office she held. Grasso was never afraid to let her opinions be known, even if they were

met with challenges. This was the case with her pro-life stance. Many in the women's movement were enthused by her elections to higher offices but disappointed by her pro-life position.

Grasso prohibited the use of state funding for abortions under Medicaid. She is quoted in a biography entry by Marilyn Wood Hill as saying she did not "wish to be a party to the killing of children of the poor." A mother of two children herself, she thoroughly understood the issues involved.

Throughout her political career, Grasso held on to her convictions and remained an advocate for women's issues and a protector of the unborn. According to the Windsor Locks Historical Society, "She was a champion for those who needed help, including minorities, women, young people, working people and senior citizens." Connecticut's Heritage Gateway (www.ctheritage.org) says, "Her greatest strength was her identification with ordinary people, exemplified by her advocacy of legislation such as the Sunshine Law, that ensured the public's access to government meetings and records, and by her taking personal command during the snow emergency in the winter of 1977." Her efforts have earned her a place in the National Women's Hall of Fame.

After Grasso died of cancer in 1981, many people all over the state displayed bumper stickers bearing the legend "Thank You Ella." Three years after her death, the Catholic Church in Connecticut hotly debated the topic of abortion. The then-Archbishop of Hartford John Wheaton addressed the issue in his weekly column in the *Connecticut Catholic Transcript*. His headline read: "We Need More Ella Grassos." ○

“[I do not] wish to be a party to the killing of children of the poor.”





Binsfeld drew on her experiences as a former teacher and a mother of five to advocate for the needs and desires of Michigan's children and families.

Lt. Governor

Connie Binsfeld

FEW WOMEN HAVE ADVOCATED as fiercely for Michigan's children and families as Connie Binsfeld. A long-time political figure in Michigan, she served in the state Senate and House of Representatives, and as lieutenant governor for eight years under John Engler. Binsfeld distinguished herself particularly with her unwavering dedication to the welfare of Michigan's children, women and families. She used the power of legislation and dialogue to change the status quo in Michigan and set a precedent for the nation.

Binsfeld's legislative accomplishments included sponsoring Michigan's first domestic violence legislation in 1978, while she was serving in the state House of Representatives as assistant Republican minority leader. Michigan was one of the first two states to pass domestic violence legislation. She served in the Michigan Senate as well, from 1983 to 1990, where she was elected assistant Republican majority leader.

As the lieutenant governor from 1991 to 1998, Binsfeld and then-Governor John Engler headed one of the most pro-life administrations in the country. Together they supported pro-life legislation that included one of the first proposals to ban partial-birth abortion. From 1988 to 1998, the number of abortions taking place in Michigan was reduced by over 38 percent—the highest rate of decline in the nation. Binsfeld was also a member of Citizens for Compassionate Care, a group that lobbied against a ballot proposal to legalize assisted suicide.

During Governor Engler's 1998 campaign, Binsfeld staunchly defended Engler's advocacy for women during her tenure with him, citing the many women holding positions in his

administration, as well as his role in increasing job opportunities for women, increasing child support collections, improving day care for working women, and expanding breast cancer screenings for women and health care for poor children.

Binsfeld drew on her experiences as a former teacher and a mother of five to advocate for the needs and desires of Michigan's children and families. She set national precedent with the country's first piece of legislation that successfully banned commercial surrogacy. In 1994 she helped establish the Chance at Childhood foundation, which funds advocacy efforts for children, and later served as its president. Binsfeld chaired a task force on children that produced a report in 1996 recommending legislation to protect children. In 1998, laws were passed to revamp the handling of child abuse and neglect cases. They were called the "Binsfeld Laws," because of Binsfeld's many years of advocacy for them in state government. Because of these laws, the process of completing parental terminations and adoptions has become quicker and more efficient, reducing the number of children languishing in the foster care system. For her efforts she was recognized as one of 2001's Angels in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption.

In her over forty years of public service, Binsfeld has won admirers and support across party lines and with voters all over Michigan. A member of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, Binsfeld has left a legacy as an advocate for the unborn, for children in foster care, and for children and families throughout Michigan. ○



M E D I C I N E

ANGELA LANFRANCHI, M.D.

"MY HEART SINKS every time I see a woman in her 30s with breast cancer and young children. Perhaps if she had known her abortion would have increased her risk of breast cancer, she might have made a different choice," says Angela Lanfranchi, M.D., a breast surgeon. Lanfranchi is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a clinical assistant professor of surgery at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey. She is also co-director of the Breast Center at Somerset Medical Center.

When Lanfranchi first heard about the abortion-breast cancer link, she thought it was crazy. But she decided to change the medical history form she used with her patients to include questions about the order and outcome of all pregnancies. She began to notice that many of her younger breast cancer patients had previously aborted.

After Dr. Joel Brind published his meta-analysis showing 23 of 28 studies linked abortion and breast cancer, Dr. Lanfranchi joined with him to co-found the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute (www.bcpinstitute.org) to inform women of this risk and others.

Lanfranchi lectures on the scientific theory behind the abortion-breast cancer link and has come up against opposition from the medical establishment.

"Paternalistic censorship is what I experience every time I try to speak on the science supporting the abortion-breast cancer link," she says. She also risks her practice and reputation: others have lost jobs for speaking out on this issue, and she herself has been denied speaking engagements and exhibit space at conferences. She notes, however, that no authority in the field of breast cancer with whom she has spoken directly has faulted her data or science—they just deem it "too political."

"Information only empowers women to make informed choices. Women who choose abortions need to be aware that they are at higher risk, so they will have mammograms earlier and more regularly. Cancers found on mammograms are more likely to be stage 1 and curable. No woman should die of breast cancer because she was not warned." Lanfranchi expresses anger that most women never hear about the link between abortion and breast cancer. "It is unconscionable that women's lives and health are sacrificed to maintain political correctness," she states.

Lanfranchi has a personal connection to the issue, as her mother died of breast cancer in 1983. "If the information I give patients can prevent a single death from a completely avoidable risk, I will gladly pay the price of being labeled a fearmonger," she says. ○

“Information only empowers women to make informed choices. Women who choose abortions need to be aware that they are at higher risk, so they will have mammograms earlier and more regularly. Cancers found on mammograms are more likely to be stage 1 and curable. No woman should die of breast cancer because she was not warned.”

PAST REMARKABLE PRO-LIFE WOMAN IN MEDICINE (above): Pamela E. Smith, M.D.

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more regularly."



Mildred Fay Jefferson, M.D.



DR. MILDRED FAY JEFFERSON is an accomplished doctor, surgeon and women's advocate. In addition to being the first African American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School, she also holds the title for being the first woman to: serve as a surgical intern at Boston City Hospital; serve as Fellow in Fractures at the Shoretell Unit of Boston City

Hospital; be elected to membership in the Boston Surgical Society; and receive the Lantern Award for Patriotism of the Massachusetts State Council of the Knights of Columbus. Twenty-eight American colleges and universities have awarded Dr. Jefferson with honorary degrees in recognition of her efforts within the field of medicine and her pursuit of social justice.

For over thirty years, she has been a loud and effective voice within the pro-life movement, which she claims, "is second only to the abolitionist movement in the profound change it has brought about in American thinking." She accuses the pro-choice mentality, which equates access to abortion with freedom, of confusing women and leading them to actions that "risk compounding both physical and psychological problems."

She served three terms as president of the National Right to Life Committee, which she helped to found, and currently serves as chair of the board. She is also a founding member, past president and member of the board of the Value of Life Committee of Massachusetts as well as Massachusetts Citizens for Life.

Jefferson is a three-time Republican senatorial candidate in Massachusetts. During her most recent campaign in 1994 against Sen. Ted Kennedy, she argued that "it is unconscionable that the destiny of 'minorities and women' in this country should be perceived as dependent on the morally bankrupt leadership of the senior Senator of this Commonwealth."

She is opposed to increasing government control over health care as she believes that federally-funded assistance programs serve only to enhance the system itself while keeping the poor and helpless where they are. Dr. Jefferson believes that education is the key to overcoming dependence upon government agencies.

In a recent speech to college students in Washington, D.C., she emphasized the relevance of pro-life support within higher education environments. She said, "If I had my way, there would be a pro-life group on every college campus here in the United States and in its territories. ... Meanwhile, I hope that wherever you have a department of women's studies or black studies that you will have a corresponding pro-life movement."

Born in Texas, Jefferson is the daughter of a Methodist minister and a teacher. She resides in Boston, Massachusetts, where she heads the Right to Life Crusade, an organization that works in tandem with the efforts of the National Right to Life Committee and American Life League. She is currently on sabbatical from the former Boston University Hospital Center to focus on writing a book. "I became a physician in order to help save lives... I am at once a physician, a citizen, and a woman, and I am not willing to stand aside and allow this concept of expendable human lives to turn this great land of ours into just another exclusive reservation where only the perfect, the privileged, and the planned have the right to live," asserts Jefferson. ○

[The pro-life movement]
"is second only to the
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American thinking."

IN 1996, WHEN JILL STANEK was working as a nurse in the Labor and Delivery Department at Christ Hospital in suburban Chicago, Illinois, she was surprised to learn that the facility performed “therapeutic” abortions. She later learned that the abortions were performed using a drug which induced premature labor. Fully formed babies were delivered; those who were born alive received no medical care and were left to die alone. Rather than quit, Stanek chose to stay at her job and speak out, despite the potential consequences.

Stanek first voiced her concerns to the hospital administration, then contacted Illinois pro-life groups and state Senator Patrick O’Malley, who helped put pressure on the hospital to change its practices. Eventually the hospital formalized its policies, and said that it would not provide abortions when sustained life after birth was possible. However, this did not stop the abortions, nor did it eliminate the instances of babies being born alive and left to die.

Stanek continued to work at Christ Hospital, fighting to end all abortions there, until she was terminated on August 31, 2001. Her efforts ultimately reached the nation’s capital. Stanek testified about what she had seen at Christ Hospital during hearings on the Born Alive Infant Protection Act of 2000. “We look the other way and pretend that these babies aren’t human while they’re alive but human only after they are dead. We issue these babies both birth and death certificates, but it is really only the death certificate that matters. No other children in America are medically abandoned like this,” she testified before the House of Representatives. She went on to say, “Abortion is a cancer that is literally killing America. It is killing our children while it is killing our consciences.”

On August 5, 2002, Stanek was invited to the White House, where she met President George W. Bush, and witnessed his signing of the Born Alive Infant Protection Act. During his speech, President Bush publicly thanked Stanek for her help with the bill. She has become a prominent pro-life activist in Illinois, and is a regular columnist in the *Illinois Leader*, an online conservative news source. Stanek took her activism a step further in 2002 when she ran unsuccessfully in the Republican primary for the Illinois state legislature. ○

Jill Stanek, R.N.

“Abortion is a cancer

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and unborn children

are protected.”



FREDERICA



WRITER AND COMMENTATOR Frederica Mathewes-Green was a staunch abortion advocate when she was in college. She fought for what she believed was “an indispensable element of women’s liberation.”

That changed when Mathewes-Green read an article in *Esquire* magazine describing a doctor’s observation of a needle moving around due to a child’s struggle during a prostaglandin abortion. She realized that she had embraced an act of violence, despite her anti-violence activism in other arenas. “Worse,” she admits, “it was violence against our own children.”

Mathewes-Green, who became Communications Vice President of Feminists for Life of America in 1989, realized that women were being forced to conform to male society: “Our mistake was in looking at these problems and deciding that the fault lay with the woman, that she should be the one to change. We focused on her swelling belly, not the pressures that made her so desperate. We advised her, ‘Go have this operation and you’ll fit right in.’”

Abortion changed the dynamics of dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. “Continuing an unplanned pregnancy can inconvenience a lot of other people...her parents, her boss, the father of the child,” Mathewes-Green explains. “Since *Roe*, a woman is expected to go away and deal with the problem privately.”

Her opinion editorial entitled “The Bitter Price of Choice” was first published by *The Washington Times* in 1989 and in 1998 was the cover story of the spring issue of *The American Feminist*. It is widely considered to be one of the best contemporary essays on pro-life feminism.

“It is a cruel joke to call this a woman’s ‘choice,’” Mathewes-Green wrote. “We may choose to sacrifice our life and career plans, or choose to undergo humiliating invasive surgery and sacrifice our offspring. How fortunate we are — we have a choice! Perhaps it’s time to amend the slogan — ‘Abortion: a woman’s right to capitulate.’”

The reality, Mathewes-Green says, is that abortion is harmful and heartbreaking. “Women don’t leave abortion clinics whistling. For years we’ve had the circular idea that, sure, abortion kills babies, but it’s what women want. But we know that it’s not what women want, not in any reasonable

sense of the word. It’s what women choose when they run out of choices. They want it like a cancer patient wants to lose a breast. But this is even worse, because what you lose is your own child.”

Mathewes-Green believes abortion should be illegal, as “laws protecting the weak from the strong belong to the irreducible core of justice.” As a civil rights advocate, she predicts, “To our great-grandchildren it will be obvious that this was the civil rights challenge of our time, and we will be judged for our response. If we are not moved when they’re killing children, nothing will ever move us.”

Our responsibility as a society, then, is to support women facing unintended pregnancies. “We must respond, and as always this means giving practical help — building support services for pregnancy and adoption,” she says. “[The abortion issue] won’t be settled until we arrive at a solution that will let our consciences be at peace — one where unwanted pregnancy is prevented, pregnant women are supported, and unborn children are protected.”

Mathewes-Green is the author of several books, including *Real Choices: Listening to Women, Looking for Alternatives to Abortion*. She is a commentator on National Public Radio and on the radio program “Come Receive the Light,” on Orthodox Christian Radio, and has appeared on “PrimeTime Live” (ABC), “Religion & Ethics Newsweekly” (PBS), CNN, C-SPAN, MSNBC, NBC News, ABC News and Fox News. She is a columnist and movie and book reviewer for various publications, including *The Los Angeles Times, Christianity Today, National Review Online, Beliefnet.com, and Touchstone*, and her writing has appeared in many other publications, including *The Washington Post and Smithsonian*. She serves on various advisory and editorial boards as well, including Books & Culture, re:generation quarterly, Touchstone, Common Ground Network for Life & Choice, Torrey Honors Institute of Biola University, Ecumenical Coalition for Women and Society, Orthodox Peace Fellowship, The Susan B. Anthony List and Americans United for Life. She also served as FFL’s Vice-President for Communications from 1989-1994. Mathewes-Green and her husband, Father Gregory Mathewes-Green, pastor of Holy Cross Orthodox Church, live near Baltimore, Maryland. They have three children and five grandchildren. ○

MATHEWES-GREEN

PAST REMARKABLE PRO-LIFE WOMEN IN JOURNALISM (at right): Norah Vincent, Michelle Malkin, Linda Chavez.



JOURNALISM

KATHRYN JEAN LOPEZ

AS THE EDITOR of *National Review* online (www.nationalreview.com), Kathryn Jean Lopez does not shy away from sharing the truth with her readers and listeners. She writes, "It's about time so-called feminists be forced to face the facts, that without the truth about what they are getting themselves into, many women are among the abortion casualties in a real war against women. Mercifully, it looks like the time for feminist silence and spin is running out. For the most innocent—the unborn—it couldn't come soon enough."

Lopez writes frequently about abortion, bioethics, religion, feminism, education, politics and other life issues. Her articles have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Times*, *Women's Quarterly*, *National Catholic Register*, *Our Sunday Visitor*, *American Outlook*, *New York Press*, and the *Human Life Review*, among others. She has been praised for her "editorial daring."

Lopez is also a frequent guest on radio and television. She has appeared on CNN, Fox News Channel, MSNBC, and Oxygen. Her speaking



Contrary to the rhetoric, this is not about women's health. And, the health and rights of the unborn—takes a backseat to the u

engagements often include high school and college groups.

In a column entitled, "Spin No More," Lopez wrote about the Women Deserve Better® campaign, sponsored by a coalition of groups, including Feminists for Life. Reflecting on the assertion of an article in *Glamour* magazine that women were "dying for a lack of safe abortions," she wrote, "They put fear into the hearts and minds of the magazine's readers, so that their choice is a no-brainer. . . Unfortunately, from *Roe*-loving ob-gyns and women's magazines, one rarely, if ever, hears a word about the post-*Roe* horror stories."

Noting the decline in acceptance of abortion by young people, in an article entitled "Women Deserve Better" for *Human Life Review* (www.humanlifereview.com/klo_women.html) Lopez writes: "This reckoning is happening at a time when more young women than not appear to be questioning abortion. (It's no accident, and perhaps the recent decline no coincidence, that Feminists for Life, for instance, has focused attention on college outreach.) Because college women are most likely to have abortions, this is a remarkably significant audience and an important success."

She adds, "The woman-focused philosophy that undergirds the Women Deserve Better® campaign—along with the miracles of modern technology that allow women and men to see the wonder of human life in its earliest stages—is the most compelling the pro-life movement has taken up, possibly since *Roe v. Wade*."

Lopez has the courage to raise issues that the mainstream media may ignore, such as the link between abortion and breast cancer, the rise in sexually transmitted diseases, cloning, forced abortion training for medical students, and post-abortion syndrome. She criticizes women's advocacy groups for their unquestioned support of abortion, including the dangerous abortion pill RU-486, about which she stated, "Contrary to the rhetoric, this is not about women's health. And, there's no such thing as safe, legal, and rare. Women's health—never mind the health and rights of the unborn—takes a backseat to the unqualified right to an abortion, any time, any place, and at any age."

Lopez is a graduate of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where she studied philosophy and politics. Before joining the *National Review*, she worked at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank on Capitol Hill. ○

WE REMEMBER



Diana Lopez

1978 – 2003

IN FEBRUARY 2002, Diana Lopez of Huntington Park, California, had an abortion at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Los Angeles.

During the operation, Lopez's cervix was punctured and she began to bleed profusely. She was taken to a hospital and an emergency hysterectomy was performed, but she died of trauma from the procedure.

In June 2003, Lopez's family filed a lawsuit against Planned Parenthood and Dr. Mark Maltzer, alleging the doctor "worked so quickly, recklessly and negligently pulling out sharp body parts of Diana Lopez's 19-20-week-old unborn infant that severe, irreparable damage was done." Also alleged by the suit is that Dr. Maltzer did not accompany Lopez to the hospital, and did not speak with the doctors there or Lopez's family after she died.

Dr. Maltzer is under investigation by the Medical Board of California.

Source: Associated Press, June 26, 2003



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unqualified right to an abortion, any time, any place, and at any age."



A C T I V I S M

“Abortion is based on a world view of control and domination, rather than one of inclusivity and equality.”

HERE IS NO CAUSE in defense of life for which Carol Nan Crossed does not fight. Long before the consistent life ethic appeared in ethical, religious, and (finally) mainstream journals, Crossed expected consistency from herself as well as others. Calling herself “the consistent bystander” in a column she writes for *Harmony*, Crossed is rarely a bystander in real life. She believes, “If it is true that violence begets violence, maybe it is true that peace begets peace.” The same determination that propelled her into the civil rights movement four decades ago continues to carry her into related issues such as the Nestle Boycott, the Nuclear Freeze, pro-peace efforts from Viet Nam to the Persian Gulf to Iraq, and opposition to the death penalty. She believes, “In a very real sense, abortion and capital punishment stand in the way of more creative and responsible treatment of crime and of unwanted pregnancy.”

After the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, Crossed intensified her work against the violence of abortion. In an speech she gave to the City Club of Cleveland commemorating the decision’s twenty-fifth anniversary (reprinted in *Harmony*, 2/99), Crossed asked, “As we stare at our reflection, what do we see after 25 years of a journey of death, a weeping trail of women and their unborn children, on this anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision?” She went on to state, “Now, as then, we have a judicial, legal and medical house of cards where laws are vulnerable to the definitions that a more powerful class chooses to make over a less powerful class... We look at our reflection and see a society whose very humanitarian tenets are violated by the abortion license.” Crossed believes that “Abortion is based on a world view of control and domination, rather than one of inclusivity and equality.” Since the 1970s, Feminists for Life has been the organization that claimed her strongest ardor.

It championed the people she treasured the most: women and their unborn children. “The abortion license has created an adversarial role not only between women and their children, but between women and men, and between women and society... Instead of a right to choose, abortion has become a women’s right to lose.”

Often the recipient of awards, Crossed is weary when people shower her with admiration. She prefers that they roll up their sleeves and help. She loves it if they do it publicly.

Crossed’s infamous “Let’s have coffee” invitations have allowed her persuasive gentleness and wisdom to change many an opinion. But she prefers a larger platform. Whether she writes letters and opinion pieces, appears on radio and television, joins legal protests, or performs acts of civil disobedience at places where death happens (resulting in 13 arrests), the public arena stimulates Crossed in her steadfast efforts against violence and injustice. She is currently taking leadership in the political arena by serving as president of Democrats for Life of America. “We in a ‘civilized’ society must have other options to cope with personal, economic and social pressures, than to destroy one another. We have to.”

Crossed also lives her beliefs at home. When her six children were young, they shared rooms with occasional immigrants from El Salvador, recently released prisoners, or young pregnant girls with nowhere to turn. Today the house teems with the joy of eight grandchildren and their parents.

Each day presents Crossed with a new battle, a new chance to change the world. The latest one, her own struggle against breast cancer, seems to be a blip on her horizon. It is serving not as an excuse for reclusion but as a reminder that time is wasting and there are many lives to save while she lets doctors help save hers. ○

PAST REMARKABLE PRO-LIFE WOMEN IN ACTIVISM (above): Dana Rosemary Scallon, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Mary Jane Owen, Mother Theresa, Marion Syversen, Mary Cunningham Agee, Rebecca Kiessling.

A black and white portrait of a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a dark blazer over a dark top. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. Her arms are crossed, and she is wearing a watch and several bracelets on her left wrist. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

CAROL CROSSED



Post abortive women say,
**ABORTION
HURTS
WOMEN** 



A C T I V I S M

Norma McCorvey

“**A**S THE PLAINTIFF in the infamous Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*, my life was inextricably tied up with abortion. Though I had never had one, abortion was the sun around which my life orbited. I once told a reporter, “This issue is the only thing I live for. I live, eat, breathe, think everything about abortion.”

Born in 1947, Norma McCorvey lived on the streets on and off from the age of ten. In 1969, when she was a self-described hippie who was stoned most of the time, she became pregnant for the third time. She considered an illegal abortion, but could not go through with it when she saw the conditions of the clinic. “Can you imagine a man or a woman trying to do an illegal abortion in a filthy office that was ridden with cockroaches and spiders and dust and dried blood on the floor?” she asks. She was introduced to attorneys Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffey, who convinced her to become the Roe in *Roe v. Wade*.

McCorvey was told the case was about women’s rights to their own reproductive organs, though she was not sure what that meant. She also believed that it was only about Texas abortion laws. As the case made its way through the courts, she never did have an abortion; instead she placed her child for adoption, as she had with her previous two children.

McCorvey was stunned to realize that *Roe v. Wade* had gone all the way to the Supreme Court, and that the decision had resulted in the legalization of abortion in all 50 states. According to McCorvey, when she read about the court’s decision in the newspaper, “It made me sad to know that my name, even though it was a pseudonym, would always be connected to the death of children.” This realization led to a suicide attempt. For years she was a “poster child” for the abortion-choice movement, and even worked at several abortion clinics. According to her Web site, www.roenomore.org, “Working inside the abortion industry,

“I want to do everything in my power to help women and their children. The issue is justice for women, justice for the unborn, and justice for what is right.”

Norma saw how abortion degraded women; she was surprised at the exorbitant dollars that kept rolling into the doctors' pockets; she saw the blatant exploitation as abortion advocates put political rhetoric above safe medicine; and she eventually began to question the movement for which she once said she 'lived and breathed.'" Norma decided to join the pro-life cause in 1995. One of the moments that sparked her conversion happened when she was at a park and noticed empty swings on a playground. "They were swinging back and forth but they were all empty. And I just totally lost it, and I thought 'Oh my God. They are empty because there's no children, because they've all been aborted.'"

Believing that "the pro-life cause is very much about keeping mother and child together," McCorvey is working with the Texas Justice Foundation on a three-pronged strategy called Operation Outcry: Silent No More, which she hopes will ultimately end legalized abortion. In the first phase of this effort, more than 1000 women who have been injured by abortion have signed in support of an amicus ("friend of the court") brief on behalf of McCorvey and Sandra Cano, the plaintiff in *Roe v. Wade's* companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*, to state that they do not agree with the decisions. The foundation has also sued the Texas Department of Health for failing to protect the health of women as it relates to abortion. "The approach we are taking," asserts McCorvey, "is to show that the lives and rights of women have not been advanced or enhanced, but rather destroyed, by abortion-on-demand. We are collecting affidavits from women who have been harmed by abortion, from women who are convinced that authentic feminism is pro-life, and from professionals who know that *Roe* has weakened the moral fabric of the legal and medical professions." On June 17, 2003, the foundation entered the third phase of Operation Outcry by filing a motion to reopen both *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* based on the false testimonies used in both. Almost immediately a federal judge rejected the case because after 30 years the time had expired to appeal the case.

"I long for the day that justice will be done and the burden from all of these deaths will be removed from my shoulders," McCorvey said in a statement. "I want to do everything in my power to help women and their children. The issue is justice for women, justice for the unborn, and justice for what is right." ○



Voices

OF WOMEN WHO MOURN

WOMEN'S ISSUES, women's rights and human rights have always been a passion of mine. As a teenager I assumed that legalized abortion was necessary for women to attain their educational and career goals. So it's not surprising that when I became pregnant at 18 I thought about having an abortion. I also considered adoption, but when I told my boyfriend, he said he would kick me out if I didn't have an abortion. I turned to my employer for advice. She agreed that abortion was the only logical option and offered to arrange one for me.

My experience at the abortion clinic was painful and humiliating. Although the young women awaiting their abortions were anxious and tearful, the clinic staff was cold and aloof. When the abortion provider entered my procedure room, I began to have second thoughts and asked her assistant if I could have a few minutes. The doctor yelled "shut her up" and started the suction machine. It was not an empowering experience. I felt violated and betrayed.

The promised solution — really the only option presented to me — wasn't the end of my nightmare, but only the beginning. I was completely unprepared for the emotional fallout after the abortion. It was difficult for me to understand why a surgical procedure would cause such deep regret and a sense of loss.

I soon found myself in a cycle of self-destructive behavior as I attempted to repress the sense that I had destroyed my child. Desperate for a fresh start, I broke up with my boyfriend, quit my job and moved to another state. Unfortunately my depression and self-hatred only deepened. When suicidal thoughts began to overwhelm me, I sought assistance.

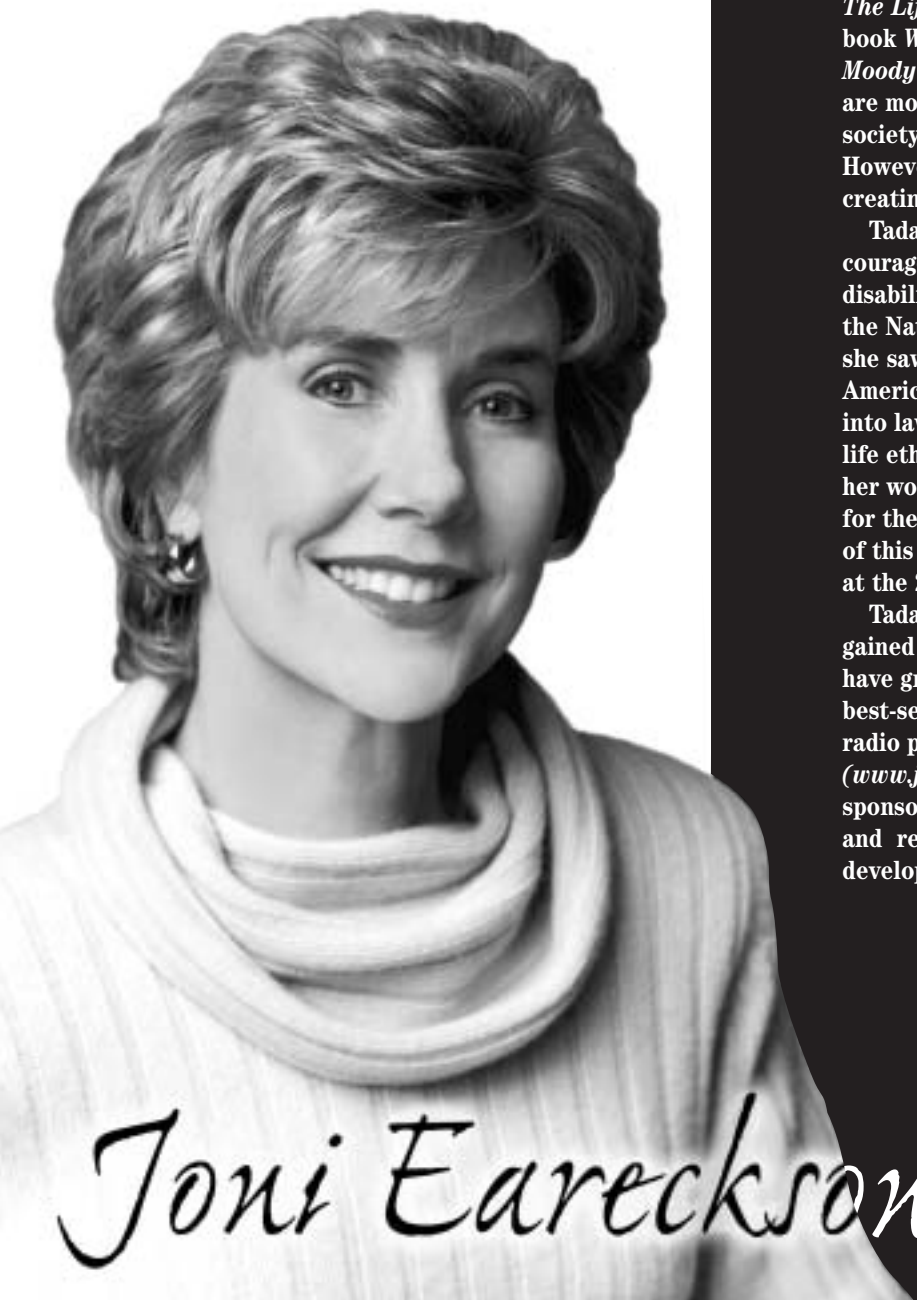
As I struggled to come to terms with my negative reaction, I began to question whether abortion was compatible with my feminist beliefs. The abortion was unnatural. It was an act of violence against my own body and the body of my developing child.

It has been eighteen years since my abortion. Although much has changed in eighteen years, not much has changed for women experiencing an untimely pregnancy. They still face unsupportive partners and employers and are often unaware of the community resources available to them. They undergo abortion not so much out of choice, but out of desperation or as a last resort. In all the noise surrounding abortion, women have been forgotten.

Michaelene Jenkins

Executive Director, Life Resource Network

“I do not want research benefiting me at the expense of other human life [medical cloning research]...I join countless Americans with disabilities in deploring the ‘harvesting’ of human life.”



Joni Eareckson Tada

CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR by a 1967 diving accident, Joni Eareckson Tada understands firsthand the desperation and hope for treatment experienced by many persons with disabilities.

Tada has great interest in current medical advances made by (adult) stem cell research, but because of her abiding belief in the sanctity of all human life, she is not willing to accept a cure that comes from embryonic cloning.

Tada rejects the arguments made for legalizing human cloning—including for the sake of medical research. “As a person with a disability, that’s not the kind of world I want. I do not want research benefiting me at the expense of other human life...I join countless Americans with disabilities in deploring the ‘harvesting’ of human life,” she said last April at the briefing for U.S. Senate Staff on cloning. FFL Honorary Chair Patricia Heaton, Co-Chair Margaret Colin and President Serrin Foster also spoke at the briefing.

Tada’s pro-life work extends to efforts to ban human cloning, euthanasia, and physician-assisted suicide. As a person with a disability, she provides a powerful perspective, that is not often heard, on the menace these movements are to our society. She writes movingly about end-of-life issues in *The Life and Death Dilemma*, the 1995 revised edition of her book *When Is It Right To Die?* In a September 2002 essay in *Moody* magazine, Tada cautioned against devaluing those who are most vulnerable. “The disabled and elderly are safe in a society that honors life and treats humanity with respect. However, we are at risk when a society thinks nothing of creating human lives explicitly for industrial exploitation.”

Tada has received numerous awards and accolades for her courage and accomplishments as a disability advocate. As a member of the National Council on Disability, she saw the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act into law in 1990. Tada’s strong pro-life ethic is consistent with her work as a dedicated champion for the sick and disabled. Because of this commitment, she was chosen to be keynote speaker at the 2000 National Right to Life Committee convention.

Tada was left a quadriplegic at 17, and shortly thereafter gained renown as a talented mouth painter. Her projects have grown to include an extensive Web site, dozens of best-selling inspirational books and tapes, a syndicated radio program, a magazine column, and Joni and Friends (www.joniandfriends.org), an organization that sponsors retreats for special needs families and collects and refurbishes wheelchairs for people in developing countries. ○



SUSAN ROYLANCE



IN THE 1970s, Susan Roylance ran for Congress in Washington State and became involved in the Equal Rights Amendment campaign out of “concern for the future of my children.” At an ERA meeting in South Carolina, Susan helped organize “Pro-Family Unity,” which later became United Families International.

In 1995, as President of United Families International, Roylance attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. When she was asked at the Beijing Conference to identify herself and the organization she represented, she was jeered. “It was a shocking experience for me,” Roylance recalled, “realizing that the word ‘family’ was such a distasteful thing to these women.”

Roylance came to believe that there was an organized worldwide effort at United Nations meetings to “reduce world population by trying to convince women that they do not want to be mothers.” In response, she compiled a series of pro-family articles for a book entitled *The*

Traditional Family in Peril. In an article entitled “Does Empowerment Exclude Happiness?” Roylance wrote, “While I believe women should have equal pay for equal work, opportunity for the highest degrees in education, and every other opportunity afforded men, we should not allow our concern for these issues to forget the feelings of love which mothers have towards their children—and the happiness which can be gained through association with their families.”

Roylance, mother of seven, has attended other U.N. conferences, which influence law and policy internationally. She helped retain the concept of “family” as “the basic unit of society” in U.N. documents, and prevented language in proposed agendas that would promote the view of abortion as a solution to many of the world’s troubles. Roylance also authored the influential, 500-page *Negotiating Guide* for pro-family U.N. delegates. ○

**“While I believe women should have equal pay for equal work,
opportunity for the highest degrees in education,
and every other opportunity afforded men,
we should not allow our concern for these issues to forget the
feelings of love which mothers have towards their children—
and the happiness which can be gained
through association with their families.”**

SERRIN FOSTER TESTIFIES FOR THE UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT



ON JULY 8, 2003, FFL President Serrin Foster testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Constitution Subcommittee in support of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, also known as Laci and Connor's Law.

“Feminists for Life and our partners in the Women Deserve Better® campaign support the Unborn Victims of Violence Act because it would provide justice for the victims of federal crimes of violence,” said Foster. “As victims, survivors, and the American people clearly demand, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act would recognize an unborn child as a legal victim when he or she is injured or killed during the commission of a federal crime of violence.”

ATTENTION FEDERAL EMPLOYEES!

If you are a federal employee or in the military, you may make a donation to FFL through the Combined Federal Campaign. CFC donors provide essential support for FFL, including FFL's innovative College Outreach Program.

FFL is CFC #1907 (located in the Women's Charities of America section of the CFC directory).

Thank you!

The editor wishes to acknowledge the following writers and researchers for their contributions to this issue:

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Leave a legacy.



We who refuse to choose between women and children live the legacy of Susan B. Anthony and the other early American feminists.

Please consider leaving a legacy by including Feminists for Life of America as a beneficiary of your estate so that our work may continue. Let us know so that we may properly acknowledge your gift.

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Help FFL Help Women and Children! Your monthly electronic donations provide essential support as FFL works to bring about positive change for women and children. Electronic donors receive quarterly President reports, detailing FFL's progress. To begin your monthly contributions, simply fill out the electronic transfer form and send it (along with a voided check) to FFL. It's that easy! Donations will be debited on the first business day of each month and will be put to work immediately by FFL. Your participation helps FFL continue the tradition of the early feminists—pro-woman and pro-life!

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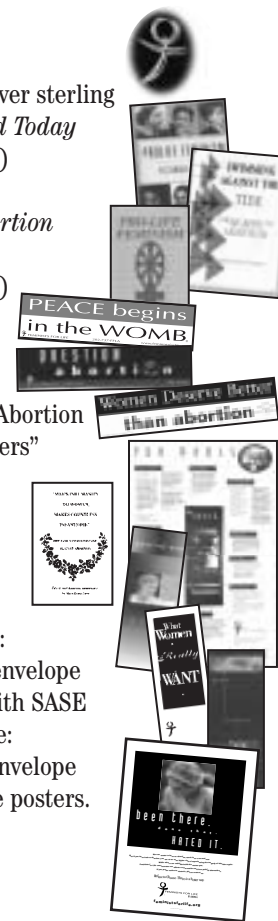
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