national RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

November 2014

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Thank You, Grassroots pro-life America!

By Carol Tobias, President, National Right to Life

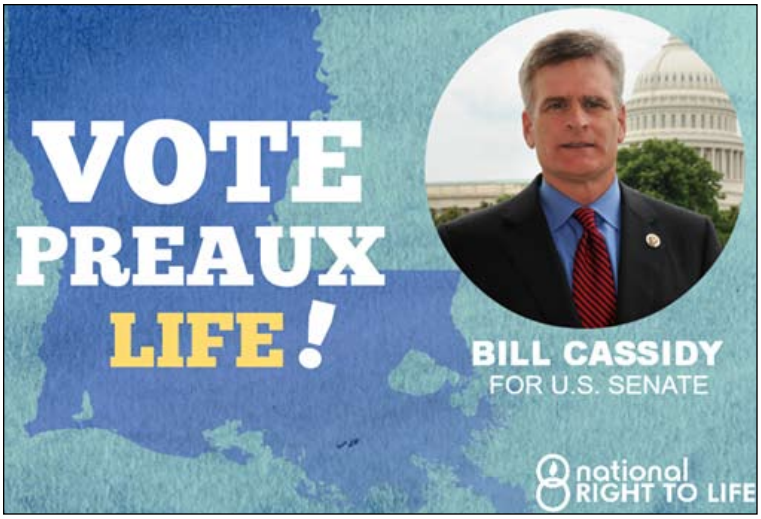
To all the wonderful pro-lifers who helped us during this election season, a heart-felt "Thank you!" So many grassroots pro-lifers assisted in so many different ways, helping to pave the way to oust pro-abortion Harry Reid from his role as Senate Majority Leader.

Whether you volunteered your time to pass out flyers, knocked on doors, made phone calls, donated to NRL's PAC and Victory Fund, shared info about the candidates via your social media outlets, or made sure your pro-life family and friends voted, I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the sacrifices you made.

I'm sure that you, like me and the NRLC staff, went to bed very happy the night of November 4. I know some of you worked hard on races that didn't turn out as you wanted. But overall, we made huge gains for the babies and the medically vulnerable.

Thank you for all your hard work to elect pro-life candidates. Along with holding most pro-life incumbents, we also picked up eight votes in the Senate--and nine when (!) Bill Cassidy defeats Mary Landrieu in the Louisiana December 6 run-off.

See "Thank You" page 28



Pro-Life Bill Cassidy is in a December 6 run-off against pro-abortion Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu

At press conference a "blasé" Obama "acknowledged no fault or error and expressed no contrition or regret"

By Dave Andrusko

Reporters and opinion writers do not necessarily agree on what might appear to be even the obviously straightforward items. That helps to explains why the *Washington Post's* David Nakamura and Juliet Eilperin could write that at his press conference the day after Democrats were crushed at the polls President Obama said he "heard" the voice of the electorate and would "forge compromises with newly empowered congressional Republicans" while (among others) Dana Milbank could write the voters' "message went in one presidential ear and out the other."

No one who has watched President Obama during his six years in office, not to mention his preceding years in the United States Senate or his time as an Illinois state senator, would or should be surprised by Mr. Obama's above-it-all performance. Nothing seemingly affects him, not the crushing defeat his fellow Democrats suffered in the Senate races (they could easily wind up losing nine seats), or the loss of at least 12 more seats in the House of Representatives, or the loss of governorships, or the loss of control of state legislative bodies.

President Barack Obama speaks during a press conference in the East Room of the White House on November 5, 2014 in Washington, DC. (Mandel N(Mandel Ngan/AFP/Getty Images)

You have to actually watch him to catch the magnitude of his indifference to what happened or the latest example of how he denigrates Republicans who now control both the House and the Senate. Take his very first answer.

A reporter asked him if he "felt a responsibility to recalibrate your agenda for the next two years, and what changes do you need to make in your White House and in your dealings with Republicans in order to address the concerns that voters expressed with your administration?"

In the middle of the first of a series of meandering, vague, non-specific answers, he said, "I'm the guy who's elected by everybody, not just from a particular state or a particular district." Take that, you insignificant peons.

See "Press Conference" page 28

Editorials

A marvelous time to be a member of the greatest Movement for social justice of our time

I am composing this editorial almost exactly nine days after the November 4 mid-term elections. Yet the final results are still not in. The Republicans have assumed control of the Senate. Needing a net gain of six, they have a +eight already with a much-more-than-even chance of adding Louisiana.

Sen. Mary Landrieu does have a family name, connections, and a history of winning tight races. But she is also pro-abortion to the core and a reliable vote for President Obama whose approval numbers in Louisiana are hovering around 38%. Moreover, Landrieu is facing a strong pro-life opponent, Bill Cassidy in the December 6 runoff. Basically all the voters who supported the Tea Party candidate November 4 are expected to cast their votes for Rep. Cassidy.

In the House, Republicans are up a +12 with possibly more in the offing. As we explain in the second editorial that begins below, many, **many** members of the Democratic "bench" (younger officeholders) were defeated—not just in Congress but in the state legislatures and in the contests for governor. Just how complete the Republican victory was is only gradually being acknowledged. (See "The depth, height, width, and breadth of the defeat suffered by pro-abortion forces only now beginning to be fully realized.")

This digital edition of *National Right to Life News* is, as you would expect, filled with news about the elections. You'll find stories about our successes on pages 1-3, 6-7, 10-11, 14 enough to make you want to go back to nationalrighttolifenewstoday.org for even more in-depth summaries. There you will find extensive coverage of state victories that will help us pass pro-life legislation.

As always, we carry the kind of heart-warming stories that will take the chill off on even the coldest night. Garth Brooks' tender ballad "Mom" (page 5) should not be read without a box of Kleenex at hand.

Pro-life Akansas Senator-elect Tom Cotton

And the courage of athlete Lauren Hill, facing terminal brain disease, is an example of courage and moxie and refusal to give in that you should share with your family and friends, but especially your children. Go to page 8.

See "Marvelous Timet" page 23

The depth, height, width, and breadth of the defeat suffered by pro-abortion forces only now beginning to be fully realized

When I first start composing this editorial, it was the same day it became quasi-official. The *Associated Press* and *CBS News* and *NBC News* all called the Senate race in Alaska: pro-life challenger Dan Sullivan had defeated first-term incumbent pro-abortion Democrat Mark Begich.

As a result, Republicans have already made a net gain of eight in the Senate and will assume control in January. As noted above, Mary Landieu is in deep trouble. The outlook is so bleak for Landrieu that last week the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee announced it had pulled its ad buy for Landrieu during the period of the run-off.

But it gets better and better. In addition to Sullivan and Cassidy, let me list just five items to whet your appetite.

#1. Writing for Gallup, Andrew Dugan concludes

After the midterm elections that saw the Democratic Party suffer significant losses in Congress, a record-low 36% of Americans say they have a favorable opinion of the party, down six percentage points from before the elections. The Republican Party's favorable rating, at 42%, is essentially unchanged from 40%. This marks the first time since September 2011 that the Republican Party has had a higher favorability rating than the Democratic Party.

Dugan continues

These results come from a Nov. 6-9 Gallup poll, conducted after Republicans enjoyed a breathtaking sweep of important contests throughout the country in this year's midterms. The party gained control of the Senate and will likely capture its largest House majority in nearly a century. Additionally, the GOP now controls 31 governorships and two-thirds of state legislative chambers.

One more quote:

After the 2012 election, many political analysts focused on the

See "Defeat Suffered" page 26

From the President
Carol Tobias

Is it open season on Pro-Life Women?

For years now, the country has been inundated with rhetoric about the so-called "war on women," an attempt (people were told) by pro-lifers, conservatives, Republicans, white men (any or all of these) to take women back to the dark ages. After the November 4 mid-term elections, one especially bitter pro-abortionist, Imani Gandy, gloomily insisted their battle was to escape being "corralled in Republican-funded breeding farms, serving as little more than brood mares in a dystopian landscape that would make even Margaret Atwood shudder."

No doubt Gandy was thinking of the many pro-abortion candidates who were defeated by pro-life candidates (including by female pro-life candidates). But if many pro-lifers declared (or at least hoped) that this mis-named "War on Women" would be laid to rest, I fear they are wrong.

Some future candidates may temper their campaigns a bit, but I don't think we've seen the last of that slogan—not by any means. The bitterness and vitriol of our opponents isn't going to stop just because some of their candidates lost.

Besides, there **is** there a real war against women but it is waged by pro-abortionists. Moreover, as the last election cycle demonstrates, a major front in that war is against **pro-life** women.

Since the beginning of the abortion "debate," men have been told to mind their own business, to shut up. This is a women's issue and men have no right to speak out for the woman or the baby. (The exception, of course, would be if the man in question is going to support the abortion or promote the cause of abortion in general.)

But now we're hearing that even **women** should shut up. Or at least if they are the "wrong" women. Women who oppose abortion should stay home and keep their mouths shut.

Because we just finished an election cycle, let's look at a few examples.

Pro-abortion former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, campaigning in Iowa for pro-abortion senate candidate Bruce Braley, took a verbal shot at Braley's opponent, pro-life Joni Ernst. "It's not enough to be a woman," Clinton declared. "You have to be committed to expand rights and opportunities for all women."

In other words, because Ernst didn't support abortion, she isn't a "real" woman. The voters of Iowa disagreed and Ernst trounced Braley by almost 100,000 votes.

Clinton was not alone. Planned Parenthood attacked Joni Ernst as being "woefully out of touch with women," insisting she "doesn't trust women."

A posting by NARAL on the social media site "Buzzfeed" stated,

> **"Let's lay down the facts: reproductive freedom empowers women to control their futures and make decisions about whether, when, and with whom to have a family. We need lawmakers, be they women or men, who will keep politicians out of our personal decisions and make sure women can get the health care they need. These three women didn't get the memo."**

The posting then went on to attack Terri Lynn Land and Joni Ernst, running for the U.S. Senate in Michigan and Iowa, respectively, and Barbara Comstock, running for the U.S. House from Virginia. Ernst and Comstock went on to win their elections but again, they weren't on the "right" side of the abortion issue. Who were the "better" women? Their pro-abortion male rivals. They understood women better than pro-life women did.

Here is another example. Nikki Haley, the pro-life Governor of South Carolina, was victorious by a whopping 14 points in her bid for re-election. During the campaign, her pro-abortion male opponent said, "And we are going to escort [the] wh--e out the door." He quickly re-stated it as, "We're gonna escort her out the door" but not without a big smile and laughter as the crowd cheered, according to media accounts.

Switch this around—if a pro-life Republican man had said the same thing about a pro-abortion Democratic woman—you know it would have been a lead story on all the evening news shows. President Obama (as he should have) would have talked about how terribly inappropriate such a slur was; and so-called women's groups like NARAL and NOW would have been raising money on it.

Because the object of the statement was a pro-life woman, most of the country never heard about Vincent Sheheen's "slip of the tongue" (as his defenders said it was).

The ugliness was more wide spread than most people know. Mia Love is a new pro-life Congresswoman-elect from Utah. She happens to be black and Republican. She has been slammed in various outlets as an Uncle Tom, or Aunt Tam. Some people may not like that she is a pro-life Republican but this is really ugly. It gets worse, alas.

Saira Blair, an 18-year-old just elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates, was pilloried on some websites for being a young woman who is pro-life. If she was pro-abortion, she'd be hailed as a new, up-and-coming star—the next Wendy Davis. (Check that, Saira won her race, Davis lost by nearly a million votes. But you get the point.)

Politics is a rough and tumble game and anyone, man or woman, who enters into the fray has to be able to take the hits. But I firmly believe that pro-life women are the most vilified and despised candidates and that the attacks have gone way past legitimate criticism to the ugliest of personal attacks. And, as we talked about in the beginning, if they want to protect unborn babies, they are said to be somehow anti-woman.

But it's not just pro-life candidates who are under siege by pro-abortionists. Women who have had abortions, and now regret the abortion, are also looked upon with scorn and derision by abortion advocates.

It is becoming accepted throughout the abortion community to say that if a woman has mental health issues after her abortion, she must have had those problems **before** the abortion. What a convenient way to deny post-abortion syndrome—you're having problems coming out of the abortion because you brought problems into the abortion.

I have written and spoken many times about how there **is** a war on women, but it is being waged by abortion advocates who:

- fight informed consent, or right to know, requirements for women who are seeking an abortion. They are afraid that if the mother gets relevant information or sees her baby through ultrasound, she'll change her mind.
- want to provide dangerous chemical abortions via "webcam." When a woman suffers complications from the abortion, the "doctor" [abortionist] may be hundreds of miles away.
- want to allow non-physicians to perform surgical abortions.
- fight regulations requiring abortion facilities to meet the most basic health and safety standards of medical clinics.
- are trying to shut down pregnancy resource centers that offer support and alternatives to a woman during a scary time in her life.

I think the war continues—on pro-life women.

Florida mom awakes from coma to deliver baby girl, mother and daughter doing well

By Dave Andrusko

When Jenny Quiles was struck by a tow truck October 15 as she approached her doctor's office, she was able to shield her unborn baby, then seven months. However she suffered a traumatic brain injury and doctors placed her in a medically-induced coma.

The plan was "to perform a C-section delivery in several weeks," according to reporter Stephanie Samuel. "Those plans were canceled when Jenny woke up after 19 days."

Her husband, Angel Quiles, was so relieved. "Then he got the call: Angel Noemi Quiles — mom and dad already had chosen a name — was on the way," reported The Tampa Bay Times' Katie Mettler and Tony Marrero. "A month early."

Quiles pleaded with the doctors to postpone the delivery until his arrival. "When the C-section succeeded, everyone in the delivery room cheered," Mettler and Marrero explained. Mrs. Quiles' doctor, Jennifer R. Gilby, said the baby "is just thriving and doing well. She's on an excellent first step into this world, and I think she's going to do great."

Doctors call Angel a "miracle baby."

Mom is making progress, too–stable, eyes open, and responding to stimuli.

"She's improving every day," Gilby told the Times in late October. "In the last 48 hours, she's really become a lot more responsive than she was."

There is another lovely twist to the story. Mr. Quiles told the Times

> **that just days before his wife gave birth to what her doctor called a miracle baby, she rustled awake at the sound of his voice. Jenny reached for him, he said, and pulled him close as if she was trying to tell him something. Mr. Quiles believes his wife was trying to say the baby was on her way, because just days later, Jenny went into labor.**

Mr. Quiles told Mettler and Marrero that his wife wanted a baby girl more than anything. He told local TV news station KTVU "From day one, none of this was expected."

> **"I thought I was I was going to lose my wife. I thought I was going lose my baby. And here we are celebrating the fact that the baby is born and Jenny is doing a lot better today."**

Angel Quiles kisses his wife Jenny, who delivered their baby after waking up from a doctor-induced coma following an accident.

Garth Brooks' Tender Ballad "Mom" is pro-life from beginning to end

By Dave Andrusko

Sundays are always hectic for the Andruskos, but especially this past Sunday. It was my wife's birthday. We gathered at our oldest daughter's home–our kids, our daughter-in-law, and our two grandkids—to celebrate Lisa as a wife, mom, grandmother, and mother-in-law.

Fortunately (I think that's the right word), I had not had time to dial up some texts and emails that had been sent to me talking about this "tear-jerker of a song." Well…on Monday I had time to listen to Garth Brooks' new song, titled simply "Mom."

Oh, my goodness.

By now, I'm guessing that Garth's tender performance of this song on *Good Morning America* has been seen by half of North America. He describes it as his second favorite (second only to "The Dance") and it is easy to see why. Why it's one of his two favorites and why every female in the GMA audience was weeping. (Confession: like Garth, I choked up as well.)

So what is "Mom" about? Glad you asked. The Don Sampson, Wynn Varble-penned ballad is a conversation between an unborn baby (I will assume it's a girl) and her Maker. The "little baby"--considering the glory of where she is -- offers how maybe it wouldn't be such a bad idea to stay with God. That earth down there is awfully big and she is awfully small. Hey, God, you're not mad at me, are you?

On the contrary, God responds, but there is somebody special who is waiting for you. Since everybody else has copied this stanza, I will, too.

So hush now, baby, don't you cry
Cause there's someone down there waiting
Whose only goal in life
is making sure you're always
going to be alright
A loving angel, tender, tough,
and strong
It's almost time to go and meet your mom.

Pass the Kleenex.

The song just grows more and more tender. God reminds the baby to listen closely. Mom is going to teach her the important stuff she needs to know. But good manners and laughing and loving, important as they are, are only minutiae in comparison to her most important task:

And she'll put you on the path
that'll bring you back to me

You can watch Garth perform the song on *GMA* on a gazillion different spots. Here's one: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3jezTg70nA. The audience reaction is almost as remarkable as the song.

Great pro-life ballad from word one to word last.

On second thought, maybe it would have been a blessing to play Garth in honor of Lisa and all the other great moms who have chosen life. Even if (especially if?) we had all bawled like children, these moms deserve this tribute, and much, much more.

Garth Brooks

Surprise Outcome in Maryland Governor's Race Comes as Welcome News to Those Who Oppose Dangerous Doctor-Prescribed Suicide Laws

By Jennifer Popik, JD, Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics

On an election night with many surprises, one race is particularly welcome to those who oppose doctor-prescribed suicide. In a Maryland gubernatorial election upset, Republican Larry Hogan, who opposes its legalization, defeated Democrat Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, who had publicly stated a willingness to consider it.

Maryland Gov-elect Larry Hogan

Until election night, Brown appeared poised to take the governorship.

Compassion and Choices, the major national group that advocates legalizing assisting suicide, had its eye on Maryland as a potential state to implement a dangerous doctor-prescribed suicide law.

The laws Compassion and Choices promote have no requirement that a physician verify if the patient is suffering from mental illness, nor do the laws adequately protect against pressure being applied to push those with disabilities and older people into suicide. The laws of nearly every state, including Maryland, currently make it a crime to assist a suicide.

According to "Candidates for Maryland governor differ on education support, assisted suicide," an October 24 article in the *Catholic Standard*, written by Mark Zimmermann

Hogan said he would oppose any efforts to legalize assisted suicide in the state. "I believe in the sanctity of human life, and I believe a physician's role is to save lives, not terminate them," he said.

In sharp contrast:

> **[I]n his interview with the Catholic journalists, Brown said he opposed an assisted suicide ban when he served as a Maryland state delegate, because "I believe fundamentally that patients, people in a relationship with their provider, their doctor, are best equipped to make decisions about their health and their life."**

This race was extremely important in light of the national attention given to the highly publicized case of Brittany Maynard, a 29-year-old with brain cancer who recently took her life under Oregon's assisted suicide law. Maynard, from California, had relocated to Oregon in order to utilize its doctor prescribed suicide law.

While doctor-prescribed suicide is against the law in nearly every state, Oregon, Washington, and Vermont have laws that authorize the practice under certain circumstances. (Additionally, the Supreme Court of Montana interpreted its law to make "consent" of the victim a defense in cases of homicide. A lower court in New Mexico struck its existing protective law. The New Mexico case is currently being appealed.)

In the states where doctor-prescribed suicide is legal and records are kept, most people seek suicide not because they are experiencing pain from illness, but because they feel like they are becoming a "burden" or losing autonomy.

Compassion and Choices promotes these dangerous laws, which are riddled with legal problems surrounding enforcement. These laws do not offer a patient "dignity" but only abandonment from health care workers and family who are supposed to care for patients and loved ones in these dire times. The "right to die" rapidly becomes a "duty to die."

More on how so-called "safeguards" fail in the states can be found at http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/medethics/WhySafeguardsDontWork.pdf

Beginning next year once new legislatures meet, there will a multi-state push to legalize euthanasia. While the Maryland governor-elect has a position against the dangerous practice of doctor-prescribed suicide, that state may still be a target of the death advocates. It is important to begin to educate your friends and family that suicide laws put vulnerable populations at risk.

Sore losers in Tennessee file frivolous lawsuit to negate passage of Amendment 1 in Tennessee

By Dave Andrusko

Pro-abortionists are nothing if not good losers. Having widely outspent pro-life forces and enjoying the support of all the dominate state media, Planned Parenthood failed to defeat Amendment 1.

The amendment to Tennessee's state constitution will give legislators a voice in establishing state abortion policies, a right throttled by a 2000 decision by the Tennessee Supreme Court. The court held "A woman's right to terminate her pregnancy is a vital part of the right to privacy guaranteed by the Tennessee Constitution."

As a result of that 4-1 decision, a bevy of commonsense pro-life measures were immediately stricken.

Well, on November 4, we won fair and square with 53% of the vote. To which pro-abortionists said….let's do it over again.

They want U.S. District Judge John Nixon to either force a recount, vote by vote, or set aside their loss and order another election.

The basis? That the votes weren't counted properly. This gets arcane so hold on.

Proponents faced an addition hurtle. Passage of Amendment 1 required a majority not just of those who voted yea or nay on the amendment but a majority of **all** those who voted for governor. So, if you voted for governor but did not bother to vote for the Amendment, it was as if you voted "no."

The lawsuit turns this advantage they enjoyed into an alleged unfair advantage for proponents of Amendment 1. They want each vote hand counted. They want any ballot in which someone voted for Amendment 1 but skipped voting in the race for governor thrown out. In lieu of that, void the election and hold another.

As Cheryl Wetzstein of the *Washington Times* explained, there were 1,352,608 votes cast in Tennessee's governor's race. To win, the Amendment would require half of that plus one—or 676,305 "yes" votes.

"Amendment 1 received 728,751 'yes' votes — or about 53 percent — of the 1,385,178 votes cast on the amendment," she wrote.

Wetzstein went on to note that

> **Tennessee officials and amendment supporters are shaking their heads over the lawsuit, saying Amendment 1 clearly won by any accounting — and state officials used the same counting process that has been used since the 1950s. …**
>
> **State officials, like Secretary of State Tre Hargett, said the lawsuit is without merit, as there has never been a requirement that people must vote for everything on a ballot. Amendment 1 declared that nothing in the state constitution establishes a right to abortion, as the state Supreme Court had previously ruled in 2000. …**

Brian Harris, president of Tennessee Right to Life and a coordinator for the "Yes on 1" campaign, told Wetzstein

> **Even if you wrongly discount those who may have voted for Amendment 1 but not in the governor's race, there is still a margin of almost 20,000 votes in favor of the amendment.**

The eight voters who brought the suit denied any connection to Planned Parenthood (presumably with a straight face). Memphis and Nashville Planned Parenthood's contributed $1.6 million while out of state PPFA groups contributed an additional $1.9 million to defeat Amendment 1.

Judge Nixon has set a hearing for January 12.

Courageous teen athlete with terminal brain cancer awarded with her own Wheaties box

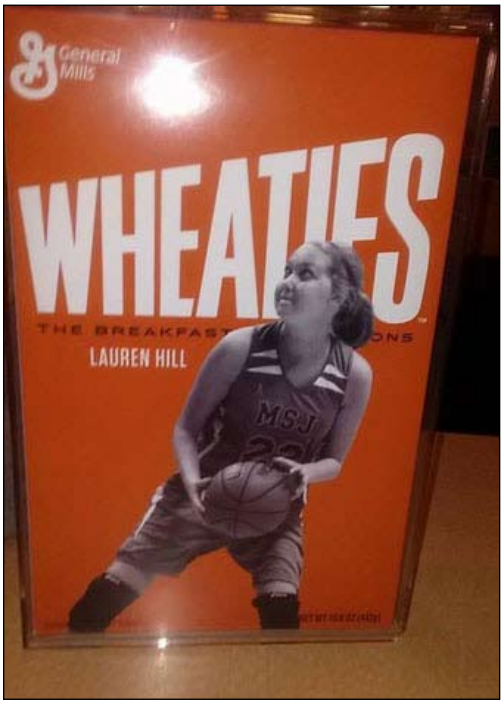
By Dave Andrusko

No one, least of all me, would be surprised by the outpouring of "high fives" and tears for 19-year-old college freshman Lauren Hill, whom we first wrote about in early November. Hill, a freshman at Mount St. Joseph University, is gamely battling terminal brain cancer, which she refused to allow to stop her from fulfilling one of her bucket list items: playing in a college basketball game.

I suppose it's no big deal in the cosmic scheme of things, but Hill is now featured on her own Wheaties' box. But, on the other hand, that puts her in some very rarified company and is yet another signal just how her courage has struck such a responsive chord.

In our first story, I overlooked an important part. At half-time, legendary women's basketball coach Pat Summitt presented the Pat Summitt Most Courageous Award to Lauren.

Summit, the epitome of courage in her own way, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2011. "She yielded the floor to one of her former players, Tamika Catchings, to present Lauren with the award," according to Paul Daugherty of the *Cincinnati Enquirer.*



Layup 4 Lauren/via FACEBOOK

As a high school senior, Lauren was diagnosed with a very deadly form of brain cancer– Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG)–which is inoperable. She underwent nearly a year of chemotherapy and radiation. In September doctors told her she had months to live, her brain tumor the size of a lemon. But this young woman is nothing if not determined.

Her school convinced its opponent, Hiram, to move the game forward to accommodate her declining health. Here's Daugherty's portrait of what happened:

In the pregame layup line, Lauren's teammates shot with their non-dominant hands, in tribute to Lauren, whose cancer has affected her right side and thus her own dominant shooting hand. …

Lauren heard her name announced as part of the starting lineup. Fifteen seconds into the game, she crossed the lane from right to left, took a pass and made a left-handed layup. Mount coach Dan Benjamin called timeout. His girls mobbed Lauren at center court.

"The look on her face was priceless," Hiram coach Emily Hays said. "She had that big smile. I'm like, 'That's why we're here.' It's more emotional now than it was even at the game. It kind of hits you even more when you're looking back at it."

Hill came back into the game in the closing seconds to score another basket in her team's 66-55 win. Standing at center court, Hill said, "Today has been the best day I've ever had."

Legendary women's basketball coach Pat Summitt presented the Pat Summitt Most Courageous Award to Lauren Hill. (Photo: The Enquirer/ Liz Dufour)

Daugherty, who was there, wrote

She cried then, we all did, but just for a second. It could have been a day for tears, buzzer to buzzer, but crying would have missed the point. Besides, that's not Lauren's style, either.

She came to a news conference after the game, unassuming and a little overwhelmed but no less eloquent. She was poetic, in fact:

"It was so thrilling," she decided, "to feel the roar of the crowd and the vibration of the floor boards. I just feel so blessed."

Daugherty's conclusion was perfect:

Lauren Hill will tell you she lived her dream Sunday. Lauren knows the wisdom of living fully in the moment, and she has the poise to actually pull it off. She wants you to know it, too.

Top 10 Ways Media Spin Abortion as 'Moral,' 'Social Good'

By Katie Yoder

A new book defines abortion as "right," "good" and "moral." It's what's "best for kids" and it's all about a woman's "unalienable right" to pursue happiness.

When Katha Pollitt, an outspoken feminist and columnist for The Nation, published "Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights" on Oct. 14, the journalists used it as a launching pad for their latest abortion obsession: no-fault abortion. Pollitt's book "reframes abortion" as "a moral right with positive social implications." And since nobody ever went broke telling the self-obsessed what they want to hear, the book has received rapturous praise form the feminist left.

Here, as given to us by Pollitt's media acolytes, are the tenets of the new Church of Guilt-Free Abortion.

1. SLATE: Abortion is 'Great,' a 'Positive Social Good'

"Abortion Is Great," began Slate's Hanna Rosin in her book review. She reasoned, "As Pollitt puts it, 'This is not the right time for me' should be reason enough." "Saying that aloud," she said, "would help push back against the lingering notion that it's unnatural for a woman to choose herself over others."

Trashing the pro-life movement, Rosin again cited Pollitt to argue, "we have all essentially been brainwashed by a small minority of pro-life activists" – or the "loud minority [that] has beaten the rest of us into submission with their fetus posters and their absolutism and their infiltration of American politics" instead of "saying out loud that abortion is a positive social good."

As far as messaging, "The pro-choice side should be able to say that a poor or working-class woman getting an abortion is making a wise choice for her future," Rosin wrote, "That way, the left would own not only gender and income equality, but also a new era of family values."

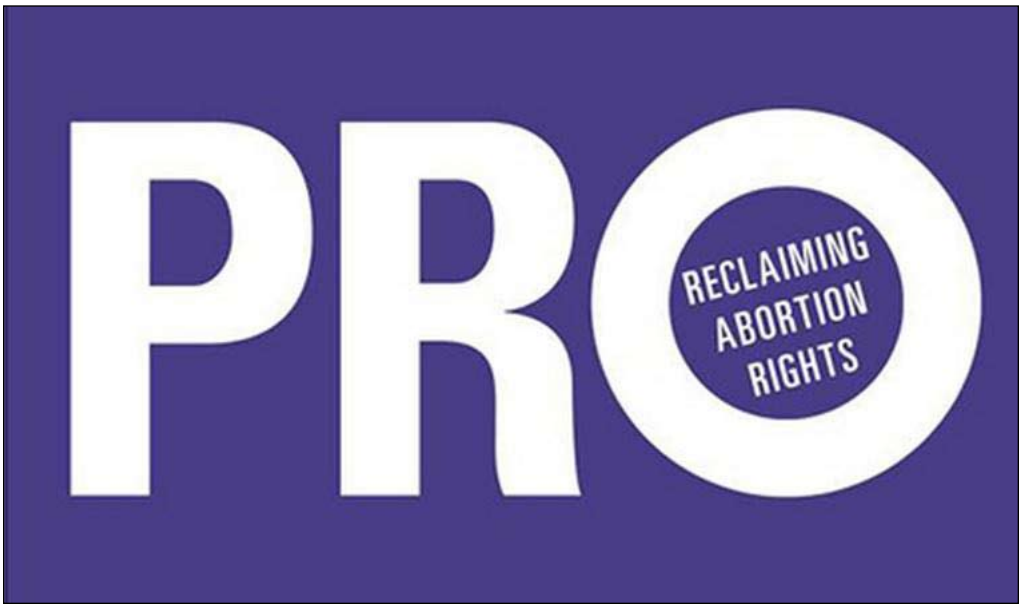
2. REFINERY 29: Abortion is a 'Social Good' for Women to 'Live Full, Complete Lives'

Like Rosin, Refinery 29's Sarah Jaffe urged, "It is past time for a revived, unapologetic and unified abortion rights movement that understands abortion as a social good."

Jaffe celebrated the book's "powerful call to understand abortion not as some singular culture-war issue but as one part of a struggle for women to be able to live full, complete lives."

Change, she said, "will come from many more people joining a revitalized movement that is able, as Pollitt argues, to stop conceding territory and, yes, demand abortion be part of any true struggle for social justice."

3. THE GUARDIAN: Abortion is 'Women's Pursuit of Happiness as an Unalienable Right'



"Abortion isn't about the right to privacy. It's about women's right to equality," began Jessica Valenti for The Guardian. But "The hard part about arguing that abortion is necessary for women's equality, of course, is that there are still too many people who don't see women's pursuit of happiness as an unalienable right," she whined.

Not one to play around, Valenti quickly went to the crux of her argument: "It's time for the pro-choice movement to lose the protective talking points and stop dancing around the bigger truth: Abortion is good for women."

She explained:

"The pro-choice movement needs to put the opposition on its heels, and make what some in the 'pro-forced birth' movement say what they're really thinking: that it's more important for women be mothers than go to college; that the ability to support existing children, to have a job that pays well or to pursue a career path we love are inconsequential realities compared to embracing our 'natural' role as perpetually pregnant; that a woman's ability to incubate a fetus trumps any other contribution to society that she could possibly make."

4. BUSTLE: Abortion is 'the Best for Kids'

Bustle's Lisa Levy praised Pollitt's "elegant, pointed, and smart" book as an "explanation of why keeping abortion legal is so critical to women's lives." In her piece, she listed the "7 Things I Learned from Coffee with Katha" – such as "Keeping abortion legal is not only the best situation for women – it's the best for kids, too."

"Abortion is a crucial way to make sure all babies are wanted, and their mothers are able to nurture and provide for them and help them to realize their potential," Levy worshipped.

5. THE HUFFINGTON POST: Abortion is 'More Moral' than Having a Child, Part of Motherhood

To announce Pollitt's book, The Huffington Post published an excerpt where Pollitt recognized abortion as "part of the fabric of American life." "We need to see abortion as an urgent practical decision that is just as moral as the decision to have a child — indeed, sometimes more moral," Pollitt spurted.

"Actually," she continued, "abortion is part of being a mother and of caring for children, because part of caring for children is knowing when it's not a good idea to bring them into the world."

HuffPo later invited Katha Pollitt on for an interview on HuffPost Live.

6. THE WASHINGTON POST: Abortion is Worthy of 'Pop Culture'

Alyssa Rosenberg reviewed the Pollitt's book with a different twist: "Why it is so important that pop culture be able to discuss abortion."

The book, she wrote, "reaffirmed my long-standing conviction that it is important for pop culture to get more confident and less coy in talking about abortion."

See "Top 10 Ways" page 33

The most important takeaways from the mid-term elections: Part One

By Dave Andrusko

November 4 was arguably the most impressive overall showing by pro-life candidates in more than three decades. You already know the dominant sound bite: Republicans took control of the Senate, President Obama is repudiated, Obama doesn't care—in fact, as all sides agree, he has moved, not to the center, but to the left.

Here is the first batch of good news--five takeaways. We'll about more lessons to be learned in Part Two.

#1. There is a reason the *New York Times* published an op-ed that essentially said mid-term elections should be abolished. They knew it was not going to be a good night for pro-abortion Democrats. Republicans needed a net gain of six to take control away from pro-abortion Senate Majority Harry Reid (D-Nev.). They lost none and have already won eight. But there's likely one more coming. On December 6, there will be a run-off in Louisiana which pits pro-abortion incumbent Mary Landrieu against pro-life Bill Cassidy.

Pro-life Alaska Senator-elect Dan Sullivan

In other words, the net 8 will likely be a net 9. The eight victories so far are Dan Sullivan in Alaska, Tom Cotton in Arkansas, Cory Gardner in Colorado, Joni Ernst in Iowa, Steve Daines in Montana, Thom Tillis in North Carolina, Mike Rounds in South Dakota, and Shelley Moore Capito in West Virginia.

#2. We ran a story the day before the election written by Dr. Randall K. O'Bannon, our in-house expert on all things Planned Parenthood. PPFA's political arm had issued a press release touting all that it had done—money, endorsements, buses, etc., etc. I asked Randy to write that piece [he has updated his analysis to include the glorious results; see page 28], because I wanted our readers to know that money isn't everything, even in combination with the impact of other wealthy pro-abortion PACS, such as EMILY's List, and the unwavering support of the Establishment Media.

You won't read this truth anywhere else-- National Right to Life pummeled EMILY's List, which gives money only to the most radically pro-abortion female Democrats. NRL was involved in 26 head-to-head races with EMILY's List. Based on preliminary results, it appears that we won 19 of those 26 races.

Six of the 26 were U.S. Senate races. We won five of the six; the lone loss was in New Hampshire, where we opposed incumbent Jeanne Shaheen.

I trust you are a regular reader of *NRL News Today*. If you are, you've benefited from story after story that was provided these last ten days to us by NRLC state affiliates. What you read is a testimony to an amazing ground game by our affiliates working with National Right to Life. A lot of organizations will claim they were the key pro-life players. NRLC and our affiliates allow our work to do the talking.

#3. A great many pro-life female Republicans won. As it happens the night of the elections we were watching *Fox News*. Brit Hume was offering a typically astute analysis when suddenly, the ongoing count which had Republicans +5 became a +6. A moment later they interrupted Brit to announce how Republicans had reached that magic 6 figure.

Joni Ernst, a pro-life Iowa state Senator, had just defeated pro-abortion Rep. Bruce Braley to win the seat left vacant by the retirement of pro-abortion Senator Tom Harkin. The symbolism was hard to miss. Likewise when pro-life Mia Love won the race for Utah's 4th Congressional District, she became the first black Republican woman — and first Haitian American — elected to Congress. Which brings us to

#4. The battered, tattered "war on women" mantra. For much of the last year, we've written about how the impact of this assault on the intelligence of female voters was petering out. True, pro-abortion Democrats are desperate to hold on to the votes of single women and no doubt still believe that recycling this idiocy will help. But, in fact, their obsession with abortion and "reproductive health" boomeranged, most spectacularly in Colorado. The monomania of pro-abortion Sen. Mark Udall (D) was so off-putting that reliably pro-abortion newspapers such as the *Denver Post* threw their support to pro-life Cory Gardner. And

#5. The overwhelming—indeed humiliating—defeat suffered by pro-abortion Texas state Senator Wendy Davis. Davis was running against pro-life Attorney General Greg Abbot to succeed pro-life Gov. Rick Perry. There are many lessons to take away from Davis' dismal 38.9% of the vote. First and foremost, pro-lifers in Texas never panicked when the local and national media announced that Davis, a heretofore obscure state legislator, represented the unstoppable wave of the future. They knew their state is pro-life. They also knew Texans would not support a candidate who'd filibustered a bill that would ban aborting pain-capable unborn children, provided that truth was not buried. They made sure it wasn't, and the rest is history.

In Part Two, which begins on page 11, we get into more of the nitty-gritty, which explains how NRLC and its state affiliates worked their magic.

The most important takeaways from the mid-term elections: Part Two

By Dave Andrusko

I'd like to draw from two sources to make a point you will not see often conceded by the mainstream media: the enormous effectiveness/impact of the get-out-the-vote work of National Right to Life, its political action committees, and its state affiliates.

The first comes from the *Associated Press'* John Hanna. Writing about Kansas, Hanna's lead was, "Abortion opponents knocked on doors, made phone calls and distributed fliers in support of Sen. Pat Roberts and Gov. Sam Brownback, and leaders of both major parties said Thursday that their efforts helped the two Republican incumbents late in tough re-election races." We'll return to this momentarily because Kansas is only one example of a tremendous campaign waged by our Movement on behalf of pro-life candidates.

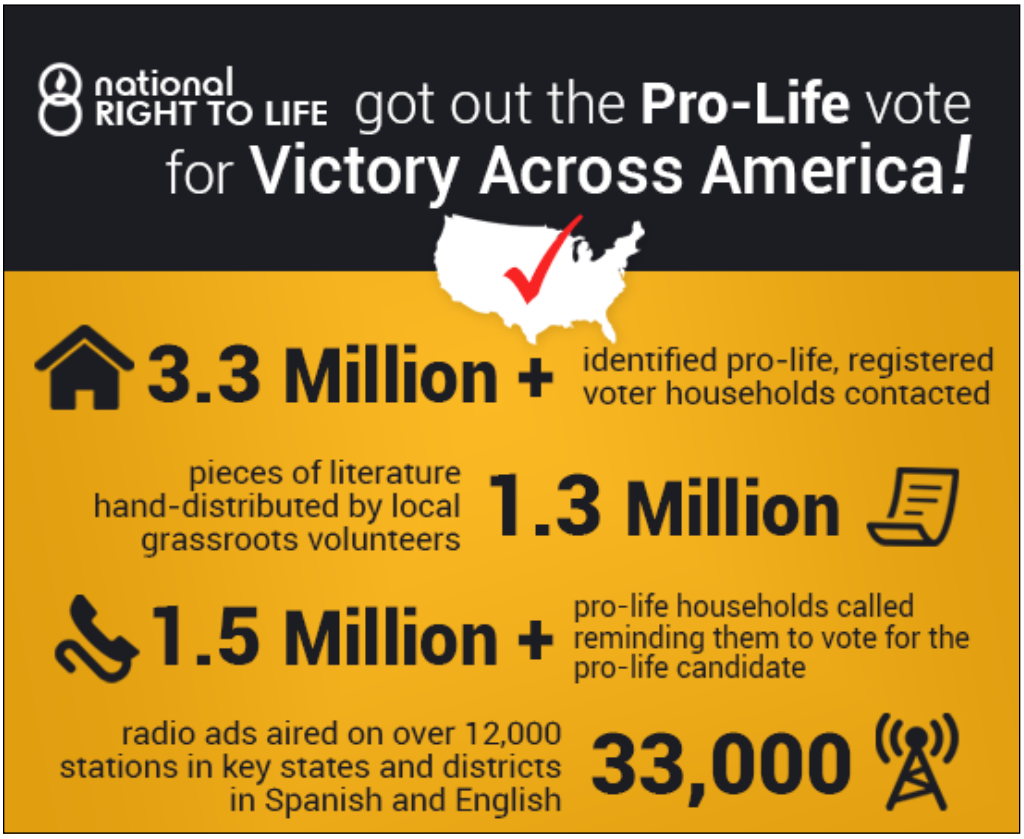
The second was an analysis sent out by NRLC, based post-election poll of actual voters conducted by The Polling Company/WomanTrend. Here are three major conclusions that can be drawn from the survey.

First, when it comes to voters who said the abortion issue affected their vote, 23% said they voted for candidates who oppose abortion. What about the other side?

Just 16% of those who said abortion affected their vote voted for candidates who favor abortion.

That is a net advantage of 7% for pro-life candidates. That is huge, folks.

Second, people heard from NRLC and our state affiliates. Fully 28% of voters recalled receiving, hearing, or seeing information or advertising from National Right to Life. The survey also told us that 17% recalled receiving information or hearing advertising from the National Right to Life affiliate in their state. This not only reminded voters who the pro-life candidates were, it made it very difficult for pro-abortion candidates to hide.



Third, as NRLC explained the day after the election (and which will lead us back to Kansas, as representative of the awesome work of NRLC state affiliates)

"National Right to Life contacted more than 3.3 million identified, pro-life, registered voter households in key races with brochures detailing the positions of the candidates on issues of importance to the right-to-life movement. An additional 1.3 million pieces of literature were hand-distributed by National Right to Life's network of grassroots volunteers among its 3,000 local chapters. In addition, over 1.5 million pro-life households were called in the days leading up to the election with a reminder to vote for the pro-life candidate in their area. National Right to Life's political committees also aired more than 33,000 radio ads on over 1,200 stations in key states and congressional districts."

Of course, pro-abortionists in Kansas pooh-poohed the work of Kansans for Life to make a convoluted and unconvincing argument. They insisted that the abortion issue wasn't visible enough for the outcome to justify a "mandate" for pro-life policies.

But this is, of course, nonsense. Roberts affirmed his staunch opposition to abortion in the last debate with "independent" Greg Orman. When asked, Orman said he was "pro-choice."

When Orman said abortion was "settled law" and that the country needs to move on, Roberts retorted the answer was "unconscionable" and said he was proud of the support of Kansans for Life and NRLC.

But it was not just that Kansans saw and heard the differences between the candidates on one television debate. Mary Kay Culp, executive director of Kansans for Life, told Hanna her organization "did two mailings during the general election campaign to 320,000 households each and made a similar number of phone calls." It also dropped 75,000 pieces of literature, while "its political action committee spent $69,000 on state-election activities, including $29,000 on mailers for Brownback during the last week of October." (Those figures, however, were incomplete. Much more was actually spent.)

See "Takeaways Part 2" page 29

Republicans retain pro-life leadership: McConnell as incoming Senate majority leader, Boehner as Speaker

By Dave Andrusko

The symbolism was perfect. A pro-life party makes huge gains November 4 and pro-life Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky is elected unanimously as majority leader-elect today by the Republicans who will serve as senators in the Congress that convenes in January.

And McConnell, who was strongly supported by National Right to Life in his re-election bid against pro-abortion Alison Lundergan Grimes, is nominated by pro-life Sen. Kelly Ayotte (NH). His nomination is then seconded by incoming pro-life Senator-elect Tom Cotton (Ark.)

McConnell, first elected to the Senate in 1984, will officially become majority leader when the new Congress is sworn in January. McConnell has served as Senate minority leader during the past eight years.

Republicans picked up eight seats in the mid-term elections and have a strong chance to pick up a ninth next month in Louisiana, where pro-abortion Democrat Mary Landrieu is squaring off in a runoff December 6 against pro-life Republican Bill Cassidy.

On the Democratic side, outgoing Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (Nev.) has been tapped by his caucus to be the Senate minority leader come January.

Over in the House, Republicans re-elected John Boehner (Ohio) as Speaker. New and re-elected members also returned Boehner's top three leadership lieutenants: Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (Ca.), Majority Whip Steve Scalise (La.), and GOP Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rogers (Wa.). As is Boehner, all three are pro-life.

Republicans have already gained 12 seats and could possibly equal or eclipse the 246 they won in 1946. There are 435 voting members in the House; 218 constitutes a majority, when all members vote.

House Democrats are expected to return pro-abortion Nancy Pelosi (Ca.) as House minority leader, although (as is the case with Sen. Reid) there is grumbling within the ranks after a tumultuous Tuesday.

Pelosi got into an argument today with reporters when they asked if she had considered stepping down from her leadership position.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

Autos for Life gears up for the end of the year!

By David N. O'Steen, Jr.

With Thanksgiving and the Christmas season almost upon us, it brings to mind that the end of the year is almost in sight.

Before the end of 2014 arrives we hope you are thinking about how you might be able to help the educational efforts of National Right to Life through our "Autos for Life" program.

Thanks to dedicated pro-lifers like you, Autos for Life continues to receive a wide variety of donated vehicles from across the country. Each of these special gifts is vital to our ongoing educational and life-saving work in these challenging times.

Please, keep them coming!

Recent donations to Autos for Life include a NICE 1998 Buick LeSabre from a priest in North Dakota, a 1995 Geo Prism from a pro-life gentleman in New Jersey, and a 1999 Chevrolet Malibu from a pro-life supporter in New York. As always, 100% of the sale amount for these vehicles went to further the life-saving educational work of National Right to Life.

This season is very important to the pro-life movement, and you can make a big difference in helping to save the lives of unborn babies! By donating your vehicle to Autos for Life, you can help save the lives of unborn babies and receive a tax deduction for the full sale amount.

Your donated vehicle can be of any age, and can be located anywhere in the country! All that we need from you is a description of the vehicle (miles, vehicle identification number (VIN#), condition, features, the good, the bad, etc.) along with several pictures (the more the better), and we'll take care of the rest. Digital photos are preferred, but other formats work as well.

To donate a vehicle, or for more information, call David at (202) 626-8823 or e-mail dojr@nrlc.org

You don't have to bring the vehicle anywhere, or do anything with it, and there is no additional paperwork to complete. The buyer picks the vehicle up directly from you at your convenience! All vehicle information can be emailed to us directly at dojr@nrlc.org or sent by regular mail to:

Autos for Life
c/o National Right to Life
512 10th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

"Autos for Life" needs your help in making the rest of the year great for the pro-life movement! Please join us in helping to defend the most defenseless in our society. We are so thankful for your ongoing partnership and support!

A dad's farewell lullaby to his dying baby boy is even more poignant than first imagined

By Dave Andrusko

How could it not have been? How could a YouTube video of a dad tenderly singing to his dying newborn baby son not go viral? As of early this afternoon, it had been viewed over 6 1/2 million times!

If those two minutes weren't enough to tug on the heartstrings of every human being on the face of Planet Earth, Chris Picco's son, Lennon, died four days after his mom, Ashley, unexpectedly passed away in her sleep a few hours after giving birth. It is just too much tragedy for one human being to endure.

There was a lot of confusion in the early stories, which has subsequently been cleared up. What was never in doubt was the beauty and sincerity of Chris's voice as he sang Paul McCarthy's "Blackbird" over the hum of the intensive care unit machinery.

MY SON: Chris Picco kissing his son, Lennon James. Credit: Ashley Picco Memorial Fund

But there was so much more to Chris and Ashley and Lennon that you wouldn't know if you hadn't read a story that appeared in the Adventist Review.

Ashley, 30, died several hours after "an emergency Caesarean section to deliver the baby, who was born 16 weeks early, at the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital," according to Andrew McChesney. Lennon, who weighed 2 lb., 4 oz, was in trouble from the beginning.

"Lennon's lack of movement and brain activity was a constant concern for the doctors and nurses at Loma Linda University Hospital, where he received the absolute best care available," K.C. Hohnensee, Campus Ministries coordinator at Loma Linda University, said in a statement under the video, which was taken by Hohensee, a family friend, and posted November 12.

Chris kept his Facebook continually updated. On the memorial page to his wife, he wrote, "Ashley would often feel Lennon moving to music so I brought my guitar today and gave him a little concert," adding, "Continue to pray for a miracle for my precious, perfect little guy!"

When Lennon James Picco died, Chris posted the following:

"Dear friends, family, and supporters; it is with an unbelievably heavy heart that I write this. My little fighter, Lennon James Picco went to sleep in his daddy's arms late last night. He was surrounded by family, friends, and the best doctors, nurses and hospital staff in the world. He was dressed in an outfit that Ashley bought for him, with little guitars on it, and wrapped in a blanket made by a dear friend. I am so thankful for the four unforgettable days I got to spend with him. His mommy would have been so beyond joy to see him and to hold him, touch him, bathe him, sing to him – as I have had the privilege of doing. I have been so blessed and honored to love him before he was formed, to cherish him while mommy carried him, meet him face to precious face, and hold his perfect little body while we said "goodbye for now". There are no words, but I wanted to keep you updated, as your love and support has meant more than anything in the world. All you need is love."

Chris and Ashley married in 2007, six years after they met. "Shortly after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, she traveled to New York to volunteer at Ladder 10 Fire Station at Ground Zero, where she met her future husband, Chris, who was also volunteering there," wrote Hohensee in an online tribute to Ashley and Lennon James.

Since it was the McCarthy song that was heard on the video, the focus is naturally on "Blackbird," a very simple song that most people don't know was an allusion to the civil rights struggle of the 1960s. People also wouldn't have known that Chris is a professional musician in his own right, who leads university chapel song services at Loma Linda University.

Nor would they know, unless they stuck around for a bit, that after the Beatles song we hear Chris singing "This is My Father's World." Here are the lyrics which speak so powerfully to his faith(you can hear Chris singing these songs, back to back, at http://abcnews.go.com/US/heartbreaking-video-shows-california-man-singing-blackbird-dying/story?id=26907392)

1. This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

2. This is my Father's world,
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.

3. This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad!

Political Money, Mobilization, Unable to Buy Elections for Planned Parenthood's Political Arm

By Randall K. O'Bannon, Ph.D., NRL Director of Education & Research

They spent millions of dollars on the election. They claimed to have knocked on more than two million doors, made more than a million phone calls, deployed more than 2,500 canvassers who worked with thousands of volunteers to get out the vote.

Sounds like we're talking about one of the country's major political parties, right? No. Not at all. These are some of the activities of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, the political arm of Planned Parenthood, the nation's biggest abortion chain, as described in the press release put out the day before the election.

Planned Parenthood heavily invested in pro-abortion candidates in battleground states of Texas, Georgia, Iowa, North Carolina, Colorado, Florida, Wisconsin, and Alaska, places where races were expected to be close. They lost **all** those races. Heavily favored incumbents they supported in senatorial races in Virginia and New Hampshire won, but by the narrowest of margins.

The week after the November 4 mid-terms Planned Parenthood tried to spin the election as neither a referendum on its "War on Women" mantra nor a repudiation of the abortion advocacy espoused by their high-profile candidates, almost all of whom were defeated. But nobody was listening.

This attempt to rewrite what happened nearly two weeks ago is a long ways from February of 2014, when a confident Planned Parenthood was loaded for bear. It announced plans to spend around $16 million on the upcoming elections.

Echoing the group's past "War on Women" rhetoric, Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards told Politico, "The bottom line is: Many of these races are going to be determined by women and women voters. To the extent that we still have politicians who are running on a platform to repeal women's access to health care and women's rights, that's a losing proposition. …We will absolutely be on the offense on these issues."(Politico/ 2/26/14).

Planned Parenthood followed through on that pledge with promises to spend $3 million just on the Texas gubernatorial campaign of Wendy Davis, a Planned Parenthood favorite. Davis, then an obscure state Senator, filibustered against abortion clinic regulations and a ban on late abortions where unborn children can feel pain (see *NRL News Today*, 7/22/14).

Those laws passed anyway in a second special session, but a media "icon" was born.

In the months that followed, Planned Parenthood ran ads, recruited and trained volunteers, and made phone calls, not just in Texas, but across the country.

In the weekend before the election, the Planned Parenthood Action Fund said in its press release that supporters and volunteers sporting the pink Planned Parenthood T-shirts made 80,000 phone calls, went to the homes of 260,000 voters "to ensure drop-off voters knew the high stakes for women's health this election and had the information they needed to get to the polls on November 4." ("Drop-off" voters are those who vote in presidential elections but tend not to vote in mid-terms.)

Facebook photos showed a smiling Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards in Wisconsin Saturday, North Carolina Sunday, and making calls in Florida on Monday.

Planned Parenthood had a particular slice of the electorate in mind, with the release expressing concern that "millennials" (younger people) and certain "communities that have been traditionally underrepresented, marginalized, and discriminated against" might sit out the mid-term election, noting that only 46.2 % of eligible women voted in 2010. Offering a list that could just as well describe their clinic marketing focus, Planned Parenthood pointed out that "Unmarried women, women of color and young people ages 18-29" currently represented "over half of the voting-eligible population."

An *Associated Press* news story appearing 10/23/14 on a Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina TV news site indicated that Planned Parenthood Votes was spending more than $2 million, deploying 480 staffers and nearly as many volunteers on voter contact efforts, hoping to reach more than 400,000 voters in the state, particularly focusing on the hard fought election battle between pro-abortion Democratic Senator Kay Hagan and her pro-life challenger Republican Thom Tillis.

Tillis defeated the incumbent 49% to 47%. His victory was important to helping the Republicans take over control of the Senate.

Not that Planned Parenthood didn't try. It went so far as to call people earlier and give them the opportunity to record a message on why they should vote. On the day before the election, the firm hired by Planned Parenthood was to call those people back and play that recording of their **own** voice back, allowing them to remind themselves to get to the polls. http://abc11.com/politics/outside-groups-spend-millions-on-nc-voter-contact/362572/

North Carolina is not the only place that Planned Parenthood mobilized and spent money to defeat pro-life candidates and policies. Planned Parenthood Votes ran ads against pro-life Alaskan Senate candidate (and now Senator-elect) Dan Sullivan; against pro-life Colorado Senate candidate (and now Senator-elect) Cory Gardner, and against Joni Ernst, now Senator-elect from Iowa.

See "Political Money" page 15

small talk (about BIG things)

By Mark Leach

I'm having the pleasure of reading Amy Julia Becker's newest book, *small talk*. I expect you will enjoy it as well.

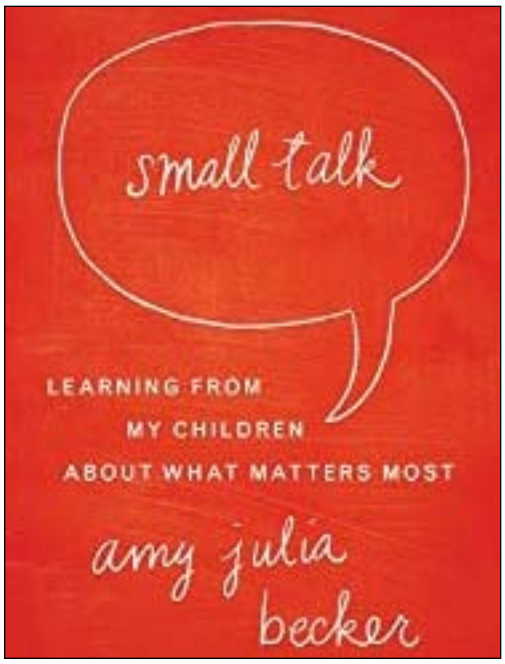
Amy Julia Becker is a mom of three who writes for a number of sites. She maintains a blog at *Christianity Today*, writes for the *New York Times* Motherlode blog, and appears often at a variety of other on-line sites. She has graciously hosted a couple of guest posts from me, and I have reviewed her on-line book for women about prenatal testing.

In her latest book, *small talk*, Becker does what I expect all of us parents wish that we did. Every parent will marvel at some of the insightful comments their young children make, hence the phrase, "from the mouth of babes …". But, most all of us will fail to document these insights. Not only did Becker document those comments, but she wrote an entire book about them.

Chapter headings include: gratitude, God, love, and marriage. While this book is titled *small talk*, it is about BIG things. And, while much of the book is a candid exposition of Becker's questions and personal revelations about her Christian faith, the discussion of these issues can be enjoyed by any reader, regardless of their faith background.

Becker writes in a way that makes me envious. Her prose, pace, and word choice convey an open, welcoming feel, drawing the reader into a conversation with Becker. Her writing sounds quiet, questioning without confronting or judging. It's a style that fits perfectly for thoughts inspired by the words of small children about issues that we all wrestle with.

Given the focus of this blog on prenatal



testing and Down syndrome, I think readers of Becker's latest book will gain some valuable understanding about what it means to have a child with Down syndrome:

*** How Becker honestly struggled with accepting Penny as she is and how now Becker cannot imagine Penny any other way;**

*** The lessons Penny has taught Becker (see the chapters on "waiting" and "beauty"); and,**

*** How for Becker's other children, what their sibling experience is like.**

I expect for many, they will be surprised by how Penny enjoys reading, singing hymns from memory, and her typical interaction with her little brother and sister. As a parent of a daughter with Down syndrome, I enjoyed how Becker discusses Penny having Down syndrome, but in a way where the reader will see Penny first as a little girl, sometimes even forgetting she has an extra 21st Chromosome.

There is more I would like to share about Becker's new book. My copy already is filled with notations in the margins of every chapter.

Becker's small talk is what long-time readers have come to expect from her writing: inviting, thoughtful discussion about important issues written in a non-judgmental, insightful way. If that sounds like something you would enjoy reading, I encourage you to buy Becker's new book, *small talk*.

Editor's note. Mark Leach is an attorney with a Master's in Bioethics. This appeared on his blog.

Political Money *from page 14*

The political arm of Florida's Planned Parenthood affiliates inserted themselves in the gubernatorial contest between pro-life incumbent Governor Rick Scott and his pro-abortion challenger Charlie Crist.

According to *MSNBC,* For the first time ever, Planned Parenthood Southeast Advocates got involved in the senatorial contest in Georgia. They aimed digital ads and direct mail advertising at about 75,000 voters in the Atlanta area, unsuccessfully trying to keep pro-life candidate David Perdue from winning the open seat over pro-abortion Michelle Nunn. Perdue won by 8 points!

Planned Parenthood explicitly defended its abortion business in spending $1.6 million attempting to defeat a constitutional amendment to grant Tennesseans the opportunity to address abortion through their legislators (*NRL News Today*, 10/21/14). That effort, too, failed. Amendment 1 passed by a 52.6% to 47.4% margin. (See more about that on page 7.)

Planned Parenthood has tried to spin its epic losses by trying to argue that women and minorities still supported Democrats and that voters overall went for "moderate" candidates. The obvious questions are (1) why voters found pro-life Republicans more "moderate" than the pro-abortion Democrats Planned Parenthood supported; and (2) why Planned Parenthood wasn't supportive of female and/or minority candidates such as Utah's Mia Love, South Carolina's Tim Scott, and Joni Ernst (against whom, it should be noted, Planned Parenthood supported a white male).

The thread that runs through all of Planned Parenthood's endorsements, activities, and spending, the one condition for their support, is support for abortion, critical not only to Planned Parenthood's agenda, but to its bottom line.

That policy of abortion on demand was clearly on the ballot this November, and that policy lost. And women, minorities, and their unborn babies won.

Pro-lifers were vastly outspent by Planned Parenthood, but they got the word out and the voters responded. As National Right to Life explained, 23% of voter said that the abortion issue affected their vote and voted for candidates who oppose abortion. This compares to just 16% who said abortion affected their vote and voted for candidates who favor abortion, yielding a 7% advantage for pro-life candidates.

No one is under the illusion that Planned Parenthood will shut down its clinics, reconsider its radical abortion agenda, or pack its bags and go home. They'll continue to work their allies in the White House and in the media, advancing their policies, and demanding their funding. And you can bet they will return the next election, as aggressive as ever.

This election shows, once again, that they can be beat.

Washington Post editorial hypes embryonic stem cells again, caught up in latest "big payoff"

By Dave Andrusko

Well, you have to give the *Washington Post's* editorial lauding the supposedly now-realized "potential" of embryonic stem cells, this much: they did spell the most prominent author's name correctly. After that, not so much.

Writing on his own blog, Dr. David Prentice explained what a group of Harvard researchers, led by Dr. Douglas Melton, actually found, as opposed to the reckless hyperbole cranked out by in-house media at Harvard and sympathetic outlets, like the *Washington Post*. We'll weave his insights into our rebuttal of some of the many misrepresentations of what the *Post* labeled a "big payoff" in treating Type I (juvenile) diabetes.

It is true, as the *Post* writes, that Melton et al. "painstakingly exposed stem cells to various chemicals until they figured out which ingredients to use and in which order, finally inducing undifferentiated stem cells to become beta cells, which specialize in detecting rises in blood sugar and releasing insulin in response."

However, as Dr. Prentice explained, there was only an incremental improvement in producing these insulin-producing cells–what Melton's team called SC-ß cells. They produced batches of these cells from both "human embryonic stem cells (hESC, which require the destruction of a young human being) and from human induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSC, the stem cells created from normal skin cells, without using embryos)," Prentice wrote.

Now besides not even acknowledging that there were sources other than embryonic stem cells, the clear implication of the editorial is the results from stem cells from human embryos were superior. Not so.

"The results were equivalent no matter the starting cell type," Dr. Prentice explained. "So for any future production of SC-ß cells, the authors have shown that **no embryonic stem cells are necessary**" (my emphasis).

The *Post* editorial, of course, took its obligatory shot at former President George W. Bush.

"After the Harvard team reported its findings in the journal Cell, its leader, Doug Melton, pointedly thanked the philanthropists who donated to his project. The George W. Bush administration, he noted, had ruled out federal funding for embryonic stem cell research except on a few lines of cells that were already in use. The Obama administration correctly reversed that policy shortly after coming to office."

Just so we're clear. As columnist Charles Krauthammer explained back in 2009 when Obama reversed the Bush policy, seven and a half-years before President Bush had delivered a national address on embryonic stem cells that was scrupulously fair, giving the best case for both proponents of their use and opponents. (This, by the way, was during a period of time when the hyperbole about what embryonic stem cells could supposedly do was everywhere. Opponents were depicted as heartless zealots.)

President Bush "restricted" federal funding for embryonic stem cell research to cells derived from embryos that had already been destroyed (as of his speech of Aug. 9, 2001)," Krauthammer wrote.

By contrast Obama's address was unserious, unreflective, and showed total unawareness of where (in Krauthammer's words) the "protean power of embryonic manipulation" could take us.

Finally, the *Post* concludes,

> **"Embryonic stem cells have been the 'gold standard' in research to date, lead study author Felicia Pagliuca explained. Scientists haven't established that non-embryonic stem cells are as useful. 'We don't know what we don't know' about them, she said. Until they do, it is crucial that scientists preserve the flexibility to explore the huge potential of stem cell research."**

I'll take the *Post* at its word that Pagliuca said (presumably to the *Post*), "We don't know what we don't know' about them," referring to non-embryonic stem cells; I couldn't find that comment anywhere other than in the Post editorial.

Then there is the sentence that came before Pagliuca's quote, which is presumably either a paraphrase of the thinking behind her quote or the *Post's* own conclusion: "Scientists haven't established that non-embryonic stem cells are as useful." Let's deconstruct that.

First, as the *Post* concedes in its opening paragraph, before the study results reported in "Cell," while proponents have fallen all over themselves touting the great "potential" of embryonic stem cells, "[U]ntil now the scientists didn't have many big payoffs to tout."

But as we noted above, lost in the shuffle (as Dr. Prentice pointed out) is that Melton et al. had used **both** human embryonic stem cells and human induced pluripotent stem cells. The results were **equivalent** no matter the starting cell type," Dr. Prentice wrote. "So for any future production of SC-ß cells, the authors have shown that no embryonic stem cells are necessary."

In combination with Dr. Pagliuca's quote, this glaring omission in the *Post* editorial also implies that there have been no successes using human induced pluripotent stem cells. That simply isn't true. See nrlc.cc/1vnvZLX , nrlc.cc/1sxYEvF , nrlc.cc/1sxZ6tM ; and nrlc.cc/1xKZHbQ .

Finally, the "gold standard" idiom. There are two problems.

I do not pretend to be a scientist, but I am familiar enough with Dr. Prentice's work to know that the real "gold standard" is the capability to stop the underlying cause of Type I diabetes–your immune system attacking the insulin-secreting cells. This would allow for the regeneration of insulin-secreting beta cells by the normal pancreas.

Dr. David Prentice

As Dr. Prentice explained last week, the promise to date in this field is the use of **adult** stem cells, for example cord blood-derived adult stem cells.

In the meanwhile, the science is not just about dealing with diabetes, juvenile or adult. If we are talking about what is helping patients around the world **now**, the real gold standard among stem cells is neither embryonic stem cells nor human induced pluripotent stem cells. It is adult stem cells, isolated from many different tissues, including bone marrow, blood, muscle, fat, and umbilical cord blood.

As Dr. Prentice explained in an article written for *NRL News*, these cells come from a patient or a healthy donor and does not require harming or destroying the adult stem cell donor. "Over 60,000 people around the globe are treated each year with adult stem cells, because adult stem cells have a proven record at saving lives and improving health."

You get my point. Too bad the *Post*—which is deeply invested in the hype over embryonic stem cells—couldn't wait to pull the trigger.

Major Advance Using Ethical Stem Cells

By Barbara Lyons, Executive Director Emerita, Wisconsin Right to Life

Cellular Dynamics International (CDI), a Madison, Wisconsin-based company, has been awarded a $1.2 million contract from the National Eye Institute to engineer stem cells acquired ethically for potential treatment of macular degeneration, one of the leading causes of blindness. This contract represents CDI's first venture into making cells for therapeutic use.

The Eye Institute, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, will send blood and tissue to CDI from 10 patients who have age-related macular degeneration.

According to a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* story, "CDI will convert the blood or tissue into stem cells, then program them to become new retinal cells of the type damaged in macular degeneration."

"Scientists at the company will, in essence, rewind the cells to create the equivalent of embryonic stem cells," according to Kathleen Gallagher and Mark Johnson. "They will then nudge the cells forward in the developmental process to become retinal pigment epithelial cells." The eventual goal is to transplant the reprogrammed cells behind the retina in the original patient.

Because a patient's own cells will be programmed, the risk of rejection will be significantly reduced. The process will take several years to be accomplished.

This type of therapeutic use of stem cells using ethical means is exactly what was envisioned when scientists in Madison and Japan discovered the iPS cells in 2007. It is a science that can be embraced by everyone since no one has to die for the cells to be acquired.

Editor's note. "iPS cells" –induced pluripotent stem cells–are made by adding a few genes to a normal cell but without using embryos, eggs, or cloning technology. They are not "adult stem cells," but rather an ethically derived version of embryonic stem cells.

Pro-choice psychologist describes abortion she witnessed; baby would now be adult

By Sarah Terzo

Dr. Magda Denes was a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst who died in 1996. 20 years before her death, she wrote a book called *In Necessity and Sorrow: Life and Death inside an Abortion Hospital*.

Magda Denes was pro-choice for her entire life and talks in the book about why abortion should remain legal. However, when it was published, the *New York Times* reviewer called it "a highly emotional anti-abortion tract." Why?

It seems that Denes, who had had an abortion herself, was honest about what she witnessed in the clinic, instead of sugar coating the reality of abortion the way the *New York Times* (and other mainstream media) has always tended to do. She used plain, honest language to describe abortion procedures and the bodies of aborted babies.

One procedure she described was a D & E (dilation and evacuation) abortion. This procedure, which was new at the time, is still popular today. It takes place in the second and early third trimesters and consists of the abortionist reaching into the womb with forceps and pulling apart the unborn baby.

Denes describes a D&E abortion that she witnessed.

"'Forceps, please,' Mr. Smith slaps into his hand what look like oversized ice-cube tongs. Holtzman pushes it into the vagina and tugs. He pulls out something, which he slaps on the instrument table. 'There,' he says, 'A leg. You can always tell fetal size best by the extremities. Fifteen weeks is right in this case.' I turn to Mr. Smith. 'What did he say?' 'He pulled a leg off,' Mr. Smith says. 'Right here.' He points to the instrument table, where there is a perfectly formed, slightly bent leg, about three inches long. It consists of a ripped thigh, a knee, a lower leg, a foot, and five toes. I start to shake very badly, but otherwise I feel nothing. Total shock is painless…"

She describes the abortionist taking out other parts of the baby, including the head:

"There lies a head. It is the smallest human head I have ever seen, but it is unmistakably part of a person."

Some may think that there is no point in describing an abortion that took place so long ago. But abortions are still being done this way, every day, in the U.S. It is likely that at least one has taken place since you started reading this article.

We can also reflect on what we have lost. Had this baby lived, he or she would already be 38-years-old. We have no idea who this child would've grown up to be. He could be a world-renowned scientist, a doctor who just cured cancer (or Ebola), a famous actor, a best-selling children's author – or just a loving father. The baby whose death you just read about could already have had children of her own. And he or she was just one of the thousands of abortion victims that day.

In Necessity and Sorrow has so many disturbing, powerful, and still relevant things to say that I will be referring back to it in future articles

Source: Magda Denes, PhD. *In Necessity and Sorrow: Life and Death Inside an Abortion Hospital* (Basic Books, Inc.: New York, 1976)

Editor's note. This appeared at liveactionnews.org.

Abortion Advocates, What Are You Doing to Protect Women from Other Kermit Gosnells?

By Micaiah Bilger, Education Director, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation

It's time that we ask abortion advocates what they are doing to protect women from abortionists like Kermit Gosnell.

These groups claim to advocate for women's health. Yet they have not taken action to protect women after witnessing perhaps the most horrific treatment of women and babies at an abortion practice in modern history.

Abortion advocates joined pro-lifers in condemning Gosnell's horrible practice. They were horrified by the case. But that's where their actions stopped.

It's clear that these groups do not believe abortion center regulations will further their goals. Abortion advocates are vehemently opposed to laws such as those passed in Pennsylvania and Texas in response to Kermit Gosnell and the women and babies who he hurt and killed.

It's time that we call them out and ask: what are they doing to protect women from abortionists who abuse and misuse their patients? And what do they believe our nation should do? If not abortion center regulations, what?

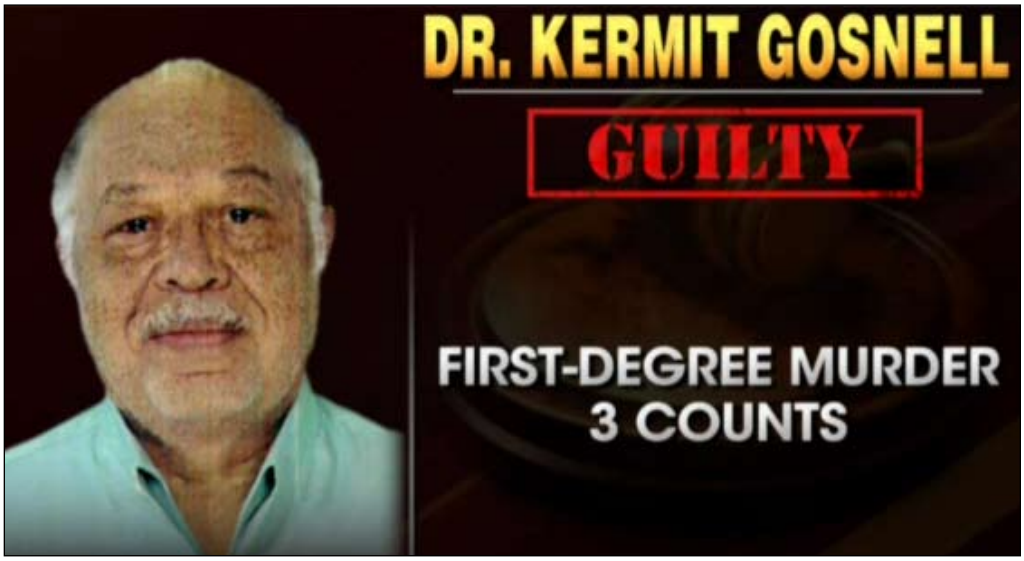
Some may say: "Gosnell certainly was terrible, and he deserves to be in prison. But he was just an outlier, an anomaly."

The Kermit Gosnell case certainly was unlike anything America had ever witnessed before. Gosnell maimed and murdered women and babies for decades before authorities discovered him.

But there is evidence that Gosnell isn't the only abortionist who is abusing women and babies. Consider Steven Brigham, James Pendegraft, Charles Rossman. I could go on.

How are we to know whether there aren't other abortionists like them? Gosnell got away with murder for decades due to the lack of abortion center regulations and failure to enforce what miniscule regulations there were on the books. The grand jury in Gosnell's case recommended beefed up abortion center regulation laws so that other Gosnells wouldn't be able to practice undetected.

Others may say: "We should do something, but abortion center regulations are doing more harm than good. These new laws are just shutting down women's access to abortion. These laws will drive women to the back alley."



But without abortion center regulations, couldn't back alley abortionists be practicing on main street? Kermit Gosnell was.

Also, these laws are not stopping abortion advocates from opening new centers or upgrading their current ones to meet the basic health and safety standards required by the new laws. Sure, it takes time and money to build or upgrade anything, but isn't the money worth it to ensure women's health and safety?

Still others may say: "Abortion center regulations are just thinly veiled attempts to shut down abortion centers. Anti-abortionists want to take away a woman's right to abortion."

Unfortunately, the mainstream media has perpetuated the lie that pro-lifers could care less about women. We only care about babies.

The truth is that pro-lifers are stepping up where abortion advocates are not. We are fighting to protect women from abortionists like Gosnell. We work to pass abortion center regulations because women deserve better.

Abortion advocates have failed to protect women from abusive abortionists like Gosnell. It's time we call them out and ask them: If you care about women, as you say you do, what are you doing to protect women from other Gosnells?

Editor's note. This appeared at http://paprolife.us/blog/2014/10/16/abortion-advocates-what-are-you-doing-to-protect-women-from-other-gosnells/

New Jersey Assembly Vote for Doctor-Prescribed Suicide Raises Threat of Nonvoluntary Euthanasia

By Burke J. Balch, J.D., Director, National Right to Life's Powell Center for Medical Ethics

On November 13, 2014, the lower house of New Jersey's legislature voted 43 to 31 to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide. The bill may yet be stopped in the state senate or vetoed by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who has declared his opposition to legalization. Were it to become law, however, legalization in New Jersey would endanger the lives of many who have never agreed to be killed because of court decisions in that state.

Ever since the 1976 New Jersey Supreme Court case of *In re Quinlan*, the state's courts have held that if someone who has the capacity to do so voluntarily has a legal right, it is unconstitutional to deny that same "right" to someone mentally incapable of choosing to exercise it. Under the doctrine of "substituted judgment," someone else, such as a relative, must be given the ability to choose, purportedly on the incapacitated person's behalf, to exercise that right.

Quinlan led the nation in applying this substituted-judgment doctrine to rejection of life-preserving medical treatment. Under that doctrine, vulnerable patients then incapable of making health care decisions for themselves have been denied treatment, or even food and fluids, that could have preserved their lives. The result has been the death of countless thousands– possibly hundreds of thousands– of people who had never asked to die.

If doctor-prescribed suicide becomes a statutory "right" in the state of New Jersey--or in any of the many states that have followed that jurisdiction's leading in recognizing the doctrine of substituted judgment--it will take only someone bringing a court case to establish the "right" of a grandmother with Alzheimer's disease to be killed at the direction of someone deemed to have the authority to make that decision.

In short, whether they realize it or not, if New Jersey lawmakers buy "voluntary" euthanasia, the state's citizens will soon get

Ripping off the ALS Ice-Bucket Challenge, pro-abortionists raise $30,000 to kill babies

By Dave Andrusko

On the one hand we learned this week that the pro-abortion rip-off of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has finally come to an end. Good news.

On the other hand we learned that donations from the Taco or Beer Challenge to various abortion funds approached $30,000. Bad news.

Is there worse news? Yes. According to Andrea Grimes, whose brainstorm this was, "I'll see you next August for ToBC 2015."

In informally closing out this year's ToBC, Grimes explained the background to her readers . "The challenge started on August 18, after I made an offhand Twitter joke about the relative unpleasantness of dousing oneself in ice water for a cause in the style of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge that went viral this summer. That joke turned into the actual eating of a taco, and the actual drinking of a beer, and the actual donation of money to an abortion fund … many, many times over."

Even by the standards of the abortion crowd, this is tasteless. They are shamelessly attempting to piggyback on the ice bucket challenge. Only instead of using that money to raise awareness of ALS (and funds for research into finding a cure), Grimes et al. want donations to expedite the killing of more babies, especially in "underserved area" where their pro-death ethos is still struggling to establish a foothold.

"What do ice buckets have to do with ALS?" Grimes, who writes for the pro-abortion blog RH Reality Check, asked rhetorically back in August. "I don't know. What do tacos and beer have to do with abortion? I don't know that either."

Let's reiterate just some of the differences between the two campaigns.

ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or "Lou Gehrig's disease") is a particularly cruel disease that progressively robs individual of voluntary muscle control and movement. "Patients in the later stages of the disease are totally paralyzed, yet in most cases, their minds remain sharp and alert," according to the ALS Association. More than 5,600 people are newly diagnosed each year with ALS with an average life expectancy of two to five years from time of diagnosis.

Abortion (tearing apart a helpless unborn child using a battery of instruments whose cruelty is matched only by the demented ingenuity of the Abortion Industry) progressively robs children of their lives and a culture of its respect for the sanctity of life.

The lives of more than a million innocent babies will feed the insatiable hunger of the likes of Planned Parenthood this year. Their average life expectancy is measured in months. In later abortions is—say after the 20th week—the victim is capable of experiencing a level of torment that is literally unspeakable.

Raising awareness of ALS awakens a society to the painful tragedy our fellow members of the human community are undergoing and to the need to find a cure. Funding the slaughter of unborn babies anesthetizes our consciences and deadens our instinct to protect the vulnerable. Its "cure" is to obliterate the victim.

Grimes tells us that she started her campaign "as something of a Twitter joke" after hearing about the ALS ice-bucket challenge. Then she figured out that just as abortion perverts real medicine, the Tacos and Beer challenge could pervert/co-opt the ALS challenge, all to further the "destigmatization" of abortion.

After all abortion is "normal" and "common," Grimes always tells her readers. So, too, is child and spousal abuse but only the Abortion Establishment would encourage us to hoist a few in order to multiple the number of innocent victims.

Grimes concluded then (as she did again this week), "The only way to fail the Taco or Beer Challenge is to not donate to an abortion fund. I believe in tacos, I believe in beer, and I believe in you."

Most people with no particular stake in the abortion debate might wonder if there is a depth to which the abortion apologist will not sink.

Those of us who have fought them for 40+ years could tell those uneducated in the ways of the Abortion Establishment: no, there is no bottom.

Midwives' right of conscience victory challenged once again in court

By Dave Andrusko

When senior midwives Mary Doogan and Connie Wood won a pivotal right of conscience case in 2013, everyone knew the legal proceedings would not end there. Earlier this week the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom heard an appeal brought by the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, which is supported by the pro-abortion British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) and the Royal College of Midwives.

According to pro-lifers in England, a decision could be rendered within the next six months. The case was heard by a panel of five judges.

Mary Doogan and Connie Wood

The midwives, each with more than 20 years' experience, initially lost their cases against their employers in the Outer House of the Court of Session in Edinburgh in 2012. However "That decision was overturned in 2013 by the Court's Inner House, which judged the midwives were legally allowed to refrain from delegating to, supervising and supporting colleagues involved in abortion care on their wards," according to Lizzie Parry on the Daily MailOnline.

The dispute arose when Doogan's and Wood's employers reorganized abortion services in 2007. Mid-term and late-term abortions would be performed on the labor ward rather than on the gynecology ward and the midwives were told they had to oversee abortion procedures.

Central to Doogan's and Wood's defense was that previously they were not called on to delegate, supervise or support staff engaged in the care of women undergoing abortions.

The Abortion Act of 1967 states that no one with a conscientious objection can be obliged to participate in abortion procedures. "However, the hospital management insisted that a conscientious objection clause in the 1967 Abortion Act applied only to active participation in a termination and did not cover the women's duties to delegate, supervise and support staff," The Scotsman reported.

But referring to the midwives' right to object, the Inner House said, "The right is given because it is recognised that the process of abortion is felt by many people to be morally repugnant. It is in keeping with the reason for the exemption that the wide interpretation which we favour should be given to it."

The BPAS and the Royal College of Midwives warned of dire consequences if the midwives' victory is sustained. A spokesman for both told Parry, it would "enable a tiny number of staff opposed to abortion to make women's care undeliverable in some NHS settings in the UK."

The basic argument against Doogan's and Wood's position is that provided in the original ruling by the judge, Lady Smith—that they are "sufficiently removed from any involvement" in the abortion that their beliefs are respected.

Doogan and Wood say being called up to supervise and support staff providing care to women having an abortion amounts to ''participation in treatment'' and would breach their rights under the European Convention on Human Rights, the *Evening Times* reported.

"NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde have attempted to argue that the women must support and supervise colleagues taking part in abortion, and that this is not an infringement of their right to conscientious objection," said Niall Gooch, a spokesman for the pro-life organization LIFE. "This is a perverse and overly narrow understanding of what it actually means to conscientiously object to involvement in abortion, and we hope that the Supreme Court will reject it."

The mid-wives attorney, Gerry Moynihan, suggested their consciences should determine what tasks they felt they could undertake.

At a hearing last year, Moynihan told the court: "The dividing line ought to be the individual's conscience, not a bureaucrat saying what is within the literal meaning of the word 'participation' or not."

When Doogan and Wood prevailed in 2013, they issued the following statement:

"Connie and I are absolutely delighted with today's judgement from the Court of Session, which recognises and upholds our rights of conscientious objection as labour ward midwifery sisters to withdraw from participating in any treatment that would result in medical termination of pregnancy.

In holding all life to be sacred from conception to natural death, as midwives we have always worked in the knowledge we have two lives to care for throughout labour; a mother and that of her unborn child.

Today's judgement is a welcome affirmation of the rights of all midwives to withdraw from a practice that would violate their conscience and which over time, would indeed debar many from entering what has always been a very rewarding and noble profession. We hope that GG&CHB will respect the court's decision so that we can return to considerations that are all to do with child birth and midwifery practice and less to do with legal matters.

We wish to thank the many individuals the length and breadth of Britain and, indeed, further afield, who have given us great help and support throughout the duration of our dispute with GG&CHB. Though too numerous to individually highlight, special mention has to be given to both sets of family, without whose support we could not have taken on this case, to SPUC and to our very talented legal team whose expertise and support we could not have done without.

Thank you to each and everyone."

Appeals Panel considers lawsuit challenging North Carolina's ultrasound law

By Dave Andrusko

Late last month, for 45-minutes, a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals closely questioned the Solicitor General of North Carolina and the attorney for national pro-abortion groups about the state's 2011 ultrasound law.

The "Right to View" provision of North Carolina's "Woman's Right to Know" was preliminarily enjoined by U.S. District Judge Catherine Eagles in October of 2011. On January 17, 2014, Judge Eagles, an Obama appointee, issued a permanent injunction which the state appealed a month later.

According to press accounts, it sounds as if the judges were busy probing for weaknesses but also playing devil's advocate.

The provision enjoined by Judge Eagles less than 24 hours before it was to go into effect requires that an ultrasound image of the unborn child be displayed at least four hours prior to an abortion so that the mother might view it and that she be given the opportunity to hear the unborn child's heartbeat.

The coalition of opponents argued that this, in combination with the requirement that the abortionist describe the development of the baby at that stage, was "compelled speech" which "hijacks a provider's [the abortionist's] voice," according to Julie Rikelman from the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR).

Not so, said Solicitor General John Maddrey at the October 20 oral hearings. The provision adds "relevant, truthful, real-time information" to North Carolina's informed consent law," he said, the *Associated Press* reported. He added, according to reporter Larry O'Dell, that the state has a legitimate interest in ensuring that a woman's decision "is mature and informed."

Maddrey went on to add that "The possibility that sharing physical characteristics of a fetus that might make a woman reconsider does not make it unconstitutional," Franco Ordoñez of McClatchy Newspapers reported. Maddrey "cited earlier U.S. Supreme Court decisions that found that the state has a legitimate interest to protect not only the health of a pregnant woman but also the life of the embryo or fetus she is carrying."

Maddrey said, "There is an additional state interest at play," the unborn child.

The remainder of the law took effect the same day Eagles issued her preliminary injunction. Left intact are provisions for a booklet containing scientifically accurate information about risks, alternatives and information on the development of the unborn child, compiled by the Department of Health and Human Services, be offered to the mother at least 24 hours prior to an abortion so that she might have the opportunity to read and understand the information.

The law, passed with bi-partisan support, was enacted in July 2011 over then-Governor Beverly Perdue's veto.

The plaintiffs include CRR, state and national chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Planned Parenthood.

The United States 4th Circuit Court of Appeals is located in Richmond VA.

A marvelous time to be a member of the greatest Movement for social justice of our time

from page 2

And then there is 17-year-old Martha Bissah, the first Ghanaian to win an Olympic gold medal won at any level. She was almost aborted! (See page 32.)

There is almost always something going on in the courts. If you turn to pages 22 and 24, we talk about the inability or refusal of abortion clinics to establish a transfer agreement with a hospital for those inevitable complications. And about the intransigent opposition to laws allowing women the option of seeing their unborn children **before** they make a life-and-death decision.

And because pro-abortionists habitually challenge pro-life laws, **especially** those that protect women's health, it drives them crazy to see that it is pro-lifers who work to ensure that there are no more Kermit Gosnells. (See Maria Gallagher's terrific story on page 18.)

We discuss Brittany Maynard, whose plight was exploited by the grotesquely misnamed "Compassions & Choices." Facing death, Brittany was caught up in the grip of an organization that ruthlessly used her tragedy to soften resistance to doctor-assisted suicide. We write about her with compassion and sadness on page 13.

October was Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Of course, as you would anticipate, the likes of Richard Dawkins **would** recently tell a mother that "that if she was knowingly pregnant with a Down's syndrome foetus she should 'Abort it and try again. It would be immoral to bring it into the world if you have a choice.'"

British writer Simon Barnes, himself the father of a son with Down syndrome, beautifully rebut's Dawkins hard-hearted (and ignorant) recommendations. It is a must read on page 25.

There is so much more. A thorough debunking of the latest mindless hype over embryonic stem cells (see page 16 and the good news about a large contract awarded by the National Eye Institute to a company for potential treatment of macular degeneration, one of the leading causes of blindness, that uses ethically-accepted stem cells (page 17).

Of course we discuss the Abortion Movement's self-inflicted wounds. Of course they see them not as something that is weakening them, but as a clever way to win over the "mushy middle." The problem is their "solutions" are supported by only a miniscule percentage of the American people. (See pages 9 and 30.)

Thank you for reading *National Right to Life News*. Whether as (as it was for decades) a printed newspaper or, more recently, an on-line digital production, *NRL News* remains "the pro-life newspaper of record."

As you have been doing, please pass along individual stories, using your social networks, or forward the entire November edition.

It is a very good time to be a pro-lifer. But, then again, rain or shine, it is always a blessing to be a member of the greatest Movement for social justice of our time.

North Dakota Supreme Court upholds law regulating chemical abortions; lone abortion clinic says it will stop performing chemical abortions

By Dave Andrusko

The North Dakota Supreme Court has upheld a 2011 law which regulates how chemical abortifacients—generically referred to as "RU486"—are administered to women. In so doing, the state's highest court reversed a ruling by District Judge Wickham Corwin who routinely hammers pro-life laws with relish.

Tammi Kromenaker, director of North Dakota's sole abortion provider, almost immediately told the Associated Press that the Red River Women's Clinic has ceased performing chemical abortions at its Fargo clinic. Kromenaker has told the AP that about 20% of the 1,300 abortions the clinic performs annually are done with drugs and not surgically. Surgical abortions are still being performed.

With a deadline approaching to petition the state Supreme Court for a rehearing before the law takes effect, David Brown, an attorney with the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR), told reporters he couldn't yet say whether a petition will be filed.

The fight over chemical abortions in North Dakota has a lengthy history.

According to testimony introduced at the trial, they were first performed in North Dakota in 2007.

The 2011 law (HB 1297) mandates that if a drug is used to induce abortion its label must say it is intended to be used as an abortifacient. Misoprostol is one of the two drugs that make up the RU-486 abortion regimen (along with mifepristone) but it is labeled for the treatment of stomach ulcers, not abortion.

Judge Corwin granted a temporary injunction in August 2011 and followed that up by permanently blocking the law in July 2013.

Corwin not only wrote that "No compelling state interest justifies this infringement," he also harshly criticized a state witness saying her "opinions lack scientific support, tend to be based on unsubstantiated concerns and are generally at odds with solid medical evidence." In fact, her credentials are impeccable. She is a respected medical doctor with years of clinical experience and also someone who has followed this issue for a number of years and published several journal articles dealing with the issue. The state then appealed Corwin's 58-page decision to the state Supreme Court.

North Dakota Supreme Court

The CRR argued that while the law might not be an outright ban on chemical abortions (pro-abortionists call them "medication abortions"), "it would act as a de facto ban by requiring the clinic to use an outdated protocol on the U.S Food and Drug Administration's approved label for mifepristone, which would prevent women whose pregnancy is past 49 days from having a medication abortion," according to Mike Nowatzki of the Forum News Service.

The case was unusual in several respects. For example, under the North Dakota state constitution, at least four (of the five) members of the court must agree that a state statute is unconstitutional.

According to Nowatzki,

"The Supreme Court was evenly split on whether the law violated the state constitution, with Justices Mary Muehlen Maring and Carol Ronning Kapsner finding it did and Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle and Justice Dale Sandstrom finding it didn't. Justice Daniel Crothers concluded that the state constitutional issue didn't need to be decided.

The justices also split on whether HB 1297 violated the federal Constitution:

"Maring, Kapsner and Crothers found the law violated the U.S. Constitution, while VandeWalle found that it wasn't unconstitutional at the federal level. Sandstrom opined that the federal question didn't belong before the state Supreme Court."

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem told Nowatzki, "I think the important thing is they did not succeed in establishing a state constitutional right to abortion, which was their goal."

Simon Barnes—Eddie's dad—demolishes Richard Dawkins counsel to abort children with Down Syndrome

By Dave Andrusko

At the end of October, as we neared the end of Down Syndrome Awareness month, the bitter irony of all the stories *NRL News Today* ran was, of course, that the better and better the lives of children with Down syndrome are, the more and more willing we seem to be to abort these children if their condition is diagnosed prenatally.

Simon Barnes and his son, Eddie

One of the stories we re-ran was first posted two years ago and was based on an amazing column written by Simon Barnes, a prominent British sportswriter. I had not kept track of Barnes and his son, Eddie, until I ran across a response he'd written to awful remarks made by Richard Dawkins. (http://www.spectator.co.uk/features/9303832/i-know-that-richard-dawkins-is-wrong-about-downs-syndrome-because-i-know-my-son/)

We've posted several times about Dawkins awful tweet. As Barnes explained, Dawkins "told a woman on Twitter that if she was knowingly pregnant with a Down's syndrome foetus she should 'Abort it and try again. It would be immoral to bring it into the world if you have a choice.'"

Barnes first addresses the "immoral" description–"a strong word," Barnes adds. Not aborting a baby diagnosed with Down syndrome could be "immoral" on two grounds, he wrote. The first is fiscal—"that it's immoral to give birth to a child that would be a drain on national resources."

But why stop there? If we are going to be "logical," as Dawkins is fond of describing his inhuman and inhumane arguments, "then we need to do something about old people, about all people with serious illnesses, about all low achievers." But, Barnes asks, why pick on kids like Eddie? "[E]ven by this argument, people with Down's syndrome are just part of the crowd of drainers."

Barnes reminds his readers that while Dawkins never recanted, he did backfill a bit when people were scandalized by his remarks. Dawkins shifted his emphasis to the argument that not aborting the child is "immoral from the point of view of the child's own welfare." Barnes responds

> **In other words, a foetus with Down's syndrome is better off unborn. Logical inference: a person with Down's syndrome is better off dead. Dawkins doesn't know what it's like to be dead, and he doesn't know what it's like to have Down's syndrome, so I'm not convinced he has a valid argument here.**

Barnes demolishes that particular fallback position, citing example after example of the full lives of people whose days, like Eddie's, "are lit up by reciprocal affection."

> **In other words, the argument that giving birth to a child with Down's syndrome is immoral from the point of view of the individual's welfare is a non-starter — an absurd example to choose, in fact.**

Barnes then explores a final justification for aborting children with Down syndrome:" What have people with Down's syndrome ever done for us?" Here he reaches a whole level of insight.

Barnes begins with territory unfamiliar to the Richard Dawkinses of our world: the "ever so slightly non-quantifiable"–unacceptable to Dawkins, perhaps, because he "judges everything with ruthless scientific rigour. Though that does pose the question of whether ruthless scientific rigour is the only valid way to look at the world."

Eddie is a blessing to his family, his school mates, his teachers, pretty much everyone who comes in contact with him. He draws out something that many of us too often keep well hidden.

See "Simon Barnes" page 29

The depth, height, width, and breadth of the defeat suffered by pro-abortion forces only now beginning to be fully realized

from page 2

One more quote:

> **After the 2012 election, many political analysts focused on the GOP's 'image problem'. Now, it is the Democrats who appear to have the more battered image. Their favorability rating has never been lower, and they are reeling from defeats that cost them control of the U.S. Senate and strengthened the Republican House majority to levels likely not seen in 90 years.**

That 36% favorable rating for the Democratic party is a drop from 6-percentage points from before the midterm elections and the lowest favorability since Gallup began asking the question in 1992.

As for the President's job approval numbers, they range between 39% and 42%.

#2. The day after the elections, NRLC demonstrated the power and the reach of grassroots pro-lifers working with and motivated by National Right to Life and its state affiliates [http://nrlc.cc/1sDz3gn]. People heard from NRLC's political committees and the net advantage for the pro-life candidate among voters who said the abortion issue affected their vote was a whopping 7 points (23% said they voted for candidates who oppose abortion, just 16% said they voted for candidates who support abortion).

Pro-abortionists have been grousing ever since and scrambling to deflect attention away from the painful reality: their candidates lost overwhelmingly. Last Tuesday pro-abortion stalwarts NARAL Pro-Choice America and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund released a poll which (the groups said in a statement) proves "There is no evidence to support the contention that a focus on the 'war on women' 'cost' Democrats their elections."

The problem is no one else believes this. Tell this revisionist nonsense to the likes of Mark Pryor, Kay Hagan, Mark Udall, Bruce Braley, Michelle Nunn, and Alison Lundergan Grimes (not to mention abortion mega-star Wendy Davis who was crushed in her contest against pro-life Greg Abbott for governor of Texas).

#3. It is symbolic of Barack Obama's devastating impact on the fortunes of younger Democrats that Hillary Clinton is the clear front-runner to be the party's next presidential nominee. If you combine the insights of a piece that appeared in POLITICO over last weekend with the analysis of *Washington Examiner* columnist David Freddoso as summarized by Noah Rothman, two startling truths come out.

First, that "Democrats are coming to the grim realization that much of the party's talent pool was crushed on Tuesday." Since they are invariably pro-abortion, this means that the Abortion Industry took a tremendous hit November 4. Rothman, writing at HotAir.com, explains

> **"In two consecutive midterms, Republicans have decimated the Democratic Party's bench of talent, not just on the federal or statewide level but farther down the ballot as well. The GOP now controls 69 of the nation's 99 legislative chambers, a dramatic reversal, according to Washington Examiner columnist David Freddoso, from 2008 when Barack Obama's party controlled 62 legislative chambers. The GOP now has the total command of state government – both chambers of the legislature and the governor's mansions – in 23 states, while Democrats command the levers of government in just seven states. In addition to the Republican Party's 31 governorships, the GOP enjoys the allegiance of 32 lieutenant governors offices and 29 crucial secretaries of state."**

#4. If you've listened and/or watched President Obama, you know he is in deep—**deep**—denial. All that happened November 4 was that he wasn't a good enough salesman of his very successful policies, the "wrong" electorate turned up to vote, and, in any event, he is not interested in the least in genuine compromise. Another description might be petulant.

Thus, the results of another Gallup poll will likely only make Obama double-down on his intransigency. As reported by Gallup's Linda Saad,

> **"Following the midterm election that some have termed a Republican wave, the majority of Americans want the Republicans in Congress -- rather than President Barack Obama -- to have more influence over the direction the country takes in the coming year."**

And it's not just that 53% say they want Congressional Republicans to have more influence than Obama in the direction the nation takes, only 36% said the reverse—an advantage of a whopping 17 points! The "bottom line," according to Saad?

> **"The midterm election provided a clear signal as to which party voters want to control Congress. That message is echoed in the results of the latest Gallup poll showing Americans expressly asking for the Republicans -- rather than Obama -- to guide the direction the country takes in the next year."**

#5. If I may return to Noah Rothman one more time, there are other results **very much** worth mentioning. "The Democratic officeholders who survived the routings of 2010 and 2014 are primarily entrenched incumbents and are invariably of an older set," Rothman observes. "The Democratic Party is rapidly becoming a political organization that, as liberals once said of the GOP, does not look like the constituents it seeks to represent."

Quoting from national exiting polling, Rothman explains

> **Republicans improved with the voters aged 18-29 who turned out by 2 points over the party's 2010 standing. The GOP only lost young voters to Democrats by an atypically close single-digit margin. Moreover, the GOP continues to elevate a younger generation of leaders to high office, including the youngest woman to serve in the House in history, 30-year-old Representative-elect Elise Stefanik (R-NY) who had the added privilege of turning her Empire State district from blue to red. She will replace Rep. Aaron Schock (R-IL) who, at 33-years-old, will soon only be the second youngest House member**.

It is not to be over-confident—that is silly and can prove to be dangerous—but only candid to conclude that the Abortion Lobby and its Democratic party enablers took an incredible pounding a week ago Tuesday.

One twin's 'rescuing hug' saves the life of her sister

By Becky Yeh

Brielle and Kyrie Jackson were born premature on October 17, 1995, a full 12 weeks ahead of their due date. As standard medical practice, doctors at The Medical Center of Central Massachusetts placed the twins in separate incubators in order to reduce the risk of cross-infection. The stronger twin, Kyrie, began to gain weight and her condition improved, but her sister, Brielle, had trouble breathing. Brielle's oxygen level was extremely low and she had difficulty gaining weight.

On November 12, Brielle's condition dropped to critical. Her tiny arms and legs turned blue as she lay gasping for air. Her heart rate skyrocketed, and her family watched in tears as they prepared for the possibility that Brielle would not make it.

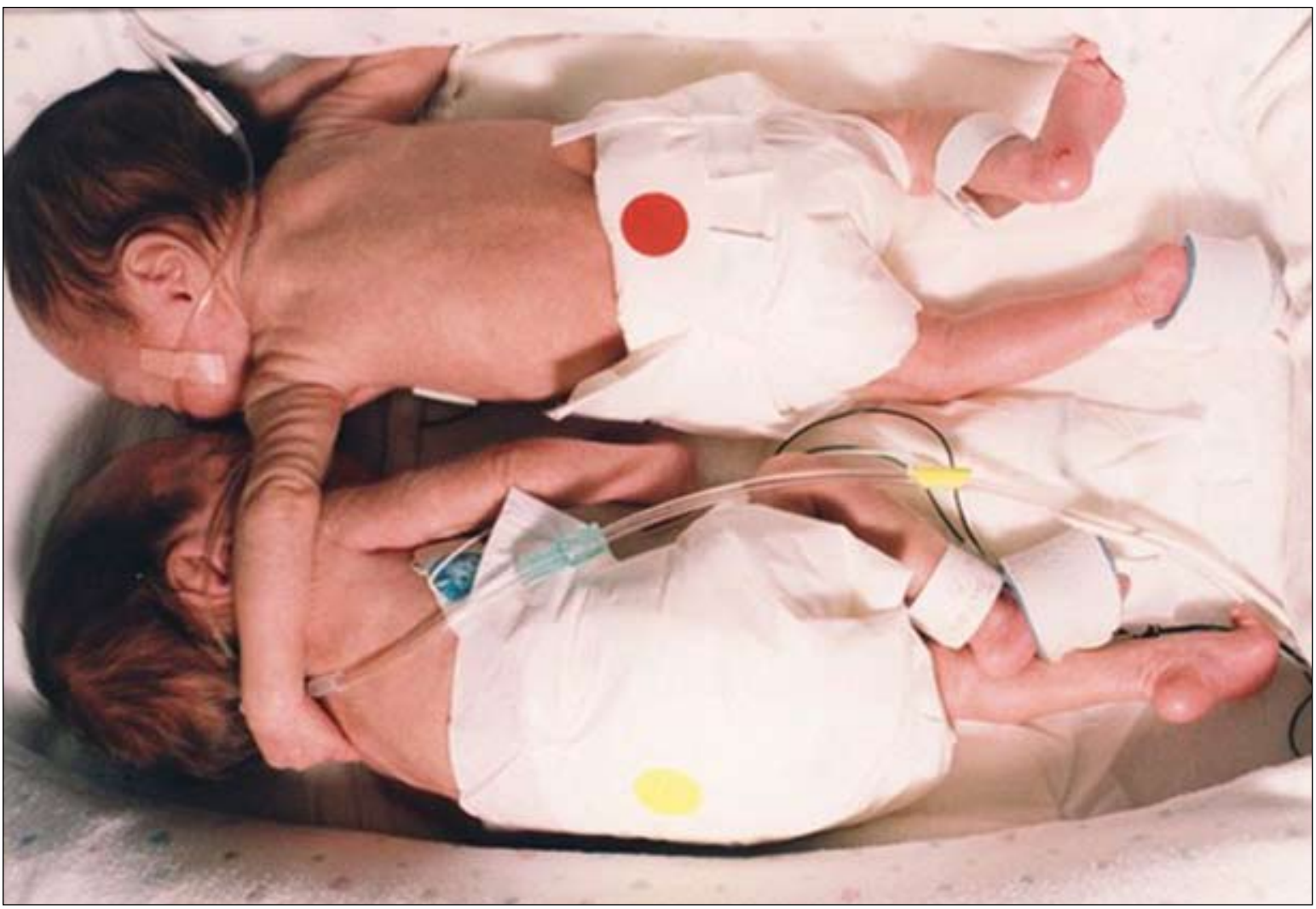
The medical staff tried everything to save tiny Brielle, but no remedy seemed to work– then, Nurse Gayle Kasparian sought parental permission to place Kyrie in the same incubator as her struggling sister. The practice, used commonly among medical centers in Europe, was almost unheard of in the United States– but as soon as Nurse Kasparian placed Kyrie in the same bed, Brielle moved close to her sister and her heart rate began to steady.

Within a few minutes, her blood-oxygen readings miraculously began to stabilize. As Brielle started to fall asleep, her sister wrapped her left arm around her, and Brielle's body temperature increased to normal.

When the hospital released the twins, their parents placed them in the same bed and their condition continued to improve. Even after five years, their parents said the twin girls still slept in the same bed.

Kyrie's "Rescuing Hug" has garnered the attention of *CNN, Life Magazine* and *Reader's Digest*, and has sparked an interest in the practice of co-bedding premature twins, triplets and quadruplets. The University of Massachusetts Memorial placed roughly 100 sets of premature multiple birth siblings in the same incubator. In all cases, doctors have not reported a single case of infection between the newborns. The twins, who are now all grown up, still share the same tight knit bond they had when they first entered the world.

Editor's note. This appeared at liveactionnews.org.



At press conference a "blasé" Obama "acknowledged no fault

from page 1

That his approval rating among "everyone" is in the high 30s and low 40s and that those dismal numbers were like an 800 pound anchor around his party's already vulnerable candidates didn't seem to have occurred to the President.

As many have observed, some of the President's remarks were (to put the best face on it) odd. After the obligatory "I'm listening" comment, Mr. Obama intoned

"To the two-thirds of voters who chose not to participate in the process yesterday, I hear you too."

Kudos to Gary Bauer who reminded his readers that even MSNBC's Chris Matthews, who carries entire drums-full of water for Mr. Obama, was puzzled, even a tad angry. Matthew's said:

"What I heard him do right now was, 'I was right. We had the wrong electorate last night. I'd prefer a different electorate. I'd like the two-thirds of the people who didn't vote to go vote.' Well they didn't vote. They didn't show up."

But that "it's the electorate who is to blame" is not actually new; it's just a variation on a theme. As he did at his press conference, Mr. Obama keeps implying that all is well—that if the public actually understood (aka, that whatever problems there are, it's the **Republicans'** fault), Democrats would have cruised to at least a standstill.

Just before the elections, Mr. Obama was complaining about how difficult the math was for Democrats, because so many senators were up for re-election. To state the obvious, many were up for re-election because of the strength of his presidential coattails in 2008. Now that "hope and change" had up and gone, the president's impact was just the opposite in 2014.

One other quick additional thought. Nakamura and Eilperin correctly described the drubbing as a "stinging rebuke." They (and everybody else on the planet) may have reached that conclusion, but not the President. As Milbank wrote

The Republican victory was a political earthquake, giving the opposition party control of the Senate, expanding its House majority to a level not seen in generations and burying Democratic gubernatorial candidates.

Yet when Obama fielded questions for an hour Wednesday afternoon, he spoke as if Tuesday had been but a minor irritation. He announced no changes in staff or policy, acknowledged no fault or error and expressed no contrition or regret. Though he had called Democrats' 2010 losses a "shellacking," he declined even to label Tuesday's results.

What a guy.

Thank You

from page 1

We increased our pro-life margin in the House of Representatives, and we picked up a pro-life Governor's seat in Arkansas.

And I want to extend congratulations to our affiliate in Tennessee for the successful passage of Amendment 1. They have successfully amended the Tennessee constitution so that the legislature can pass pro-life legislation.

I am very proud of the NRLC staff. They put in many long hours and found ways to do an incredible amount of effective work with not a lot of money (compared to many other groups). And while they were celebrating the victories, the discussion already moved on to the 2016 elections—the presidential race as well as our determination to hold the majority we now have in the Senate.

Pro-life work never ends, but it's a privilege to be a part of the greatest movement for social justice of our time. Let us rejoice in our victories yesterday, knowing that we took an important step forward.

God bless you all.

Simon Barnes—Eddie's dad—demolishes Richard Dawkins counsel to abort children with Down Syndrome

from page 25

This capacity "will continue into adult life," Barnes writes

> **Eddie will make people more generous, make them behave better towards other people with problems, make them think about such people in a better way. He will make people fractionally gentler and fractionally kinder. That doesn't seem to me a negligible contribution to society; many people do less.**

I could paraphrase Barnes' conclusion, but that would be a huge error on my part; it would deprive you of his almost sublime eloquence.

> **Dawkins's website contains a vigorous pseudonymous defence of Dawkins on Down's. It's written in duh! duh! logic designed to make even us stupid people grasp the subtleties of Dawkins's argument, and makes clear that this argument stands or falls on the question of whether or not people with Down's syndrome live in perpetual hell. And they do nothing of the kind.**
>
> **Dawkins's argument is based on an error. He hasn't researched Down's syndrome, he just assumed that people with the condition live in constant suffering. It's a shame that Dawkins wasted his title 'The God Delusion' for his fundamentalist tract. He should have saved it for his autobiography.**
>
> **But never mind him: it's Eddie that matters here. Dawkins implies that both society and Eddie would be better if Eddie did not exist: not just Eddie but everyone else with Down's syndrome. I disagree. So — sorry and all that — we're going to have to face up to the gritty reality of society. If we distil every-thing that matters down to its last brutal reductionist essence, what are we left with? Eddie's job in this world is to love and to be loved. Isn't every-one's? Or is love just another meme?**

The most important takeaways from the mid-term elections: Part Two

from page 11

And, of course, National Right to Life assisted as well, as it did in many races throughout the country. A very impressive joint effort.

One other hugely important consideration. Each election cycle National Right to Life's political action committees do battle with the two largest pro-abortion PACS, EMILY's List and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund. Consider the following next time you may wonder who performs the decisive work:

> **"These poll results help explain the victories experienced by the right-to-life movement in Tuesday's elections. National Right to Life's political committees were actively involved in 74 races. In those races, 53 (72%) pro-life candidates prevailed, including pro-life Senate candidates in Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, North Carolina, South Dakota, and West Virginia. Two of the Senate races in which National Right to Life was actively involved are still outstanding." [Alaska was later called for pro-life Dan Sullivan.]**
>
> **"Despite being vastly outspent by pro-abortion organizations such as Planned Parenthood and EMILY's List, pro-life candidates won Tuesday by significant margins. There were 26 races in which a candidate supported by National Right to Life was running against a candidate supported by the pro-abortion PAC EMILY's List. Nineteen (73%) of the National Right to Life-supported candidates won.**

EMILY's List almost has more money than it can use. Nonetheless, NRL political committees prevailed in almost 3/4s of the head-to-head matches.

The election may be in the rear mirror (except for the Senate race in Louisiana and a half full of House of Representative contests). But the difference National Right to Life, its political action committees, and its state affiliates made in helping Republicans regain control of the United States Senate must not be forgotten.

New pro-abortion book "likely to horrify and alienate everyone who isn't already initiated into her death cult"

By Dave Andrusko

We've posted several times on Katha Pollitt's new book. We've done so not because of its originality (pro-abortionists are the ultimate "Greens"; they recycle the same nonsense over and over), but because her fans have convinced themselves that *Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights* will restart a movement which is stuck in place and down to one gear.

But the book is worth revisiting again because of a typically brilliant review by Mollie Ziegler Hemingway which appeared at National Review Online. [www.nationalreview.com/article/391288/shiny-empty-uteruses-mollie-ziegler-hemingway].

I just purchased *Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights* on Kindle and have skimmed some of the book. From what I can tell, Hemingway (as you would expect) does an excellent job boring in on Pollitt's inconsistencies, her habit of substituting wishes for evidence, her raging hostility toward the maternal side of motherhood [Hemingway's review is aptly headlined, "Shiny, Empty Uteruses"], and her thirst for a dystopian, technological future where all women are freed of the "burden" of bearing children.

For example, as Hemingway perceptively notes, Pollitt begins by stating as fact that her mother had an abortion in 1960. But there is no direct evidence. When Pollitt subsequently learned her late mother had been in the care of a physician for "gynecological problems," she assumed that must be code for abortion, even though her father never knew about the abortion. Here's Hemingway:

> **It's unclear why she is convinced that unspecified "gynecological problems" meant her mother had an abortion instead of all the thousands of other things it could mean, but it's an early indication of the way the book will jump to conclusions, focus on abortion as a moral good, and make claims that seem more fantasy than reality. A few pages later, Pollitt says she daydreams about "shiny and empty uteruses," where clearing the womb is just another form of housekeeping. Her very last paragraph finds her dreaming of a future feminist heaven where "there will be abortion."**

Judging by Hemingway's review, the book is consistent with Pollitt's writings elsewhere. Pollitt is an exceedingly sloppy writer who is convinced that if she trivializes the significance of the unborn child and slanders pro-lifers, that substitutes for a reasoned argument. In other words, this book is for not just the true believer, but the true-true believer.

Did I mention Pollitt (whom her admirers insist has revitalized their movement's fortunes with this stem-winder) recycles? There is the obligatory "clump of cells" label and comparison to "pea-sized shrimp-like embryos." Such originality.

But it gets worse. Consider: We now have incredibly detailed, 4-color, real-time ultrasounds.

Not for Pollitt, as Hemingway writes: "Ultrasound images of children in the womb are 'really just a gray blur' and 'fuzzy, high-tech smudges' that she compares to photos of the Loch Ness Monster." Get it? Loch Ness Monster.

Final thought. As pro-abortionists do routinely, Pollitt attributes attitudes and values to pro-lifers which make you and I scratch our heads. We don't know anybody like that, and Pollitt doesn't bother to actually quote any pro-lifer saying the things she says we are motivated by.

That the usual suspects have treated *Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights* as some sort of turning point in the abortion debate tell you all you need to know about the desperation they feel. Pollitt's view of life is simply warped by an embrace of abortion as a positive good. It's all very strange.

Hemingway ends her review with the keen observation that Pollitt's "odd view of motherhood" will be "a very tough sell, even with the pliant media."

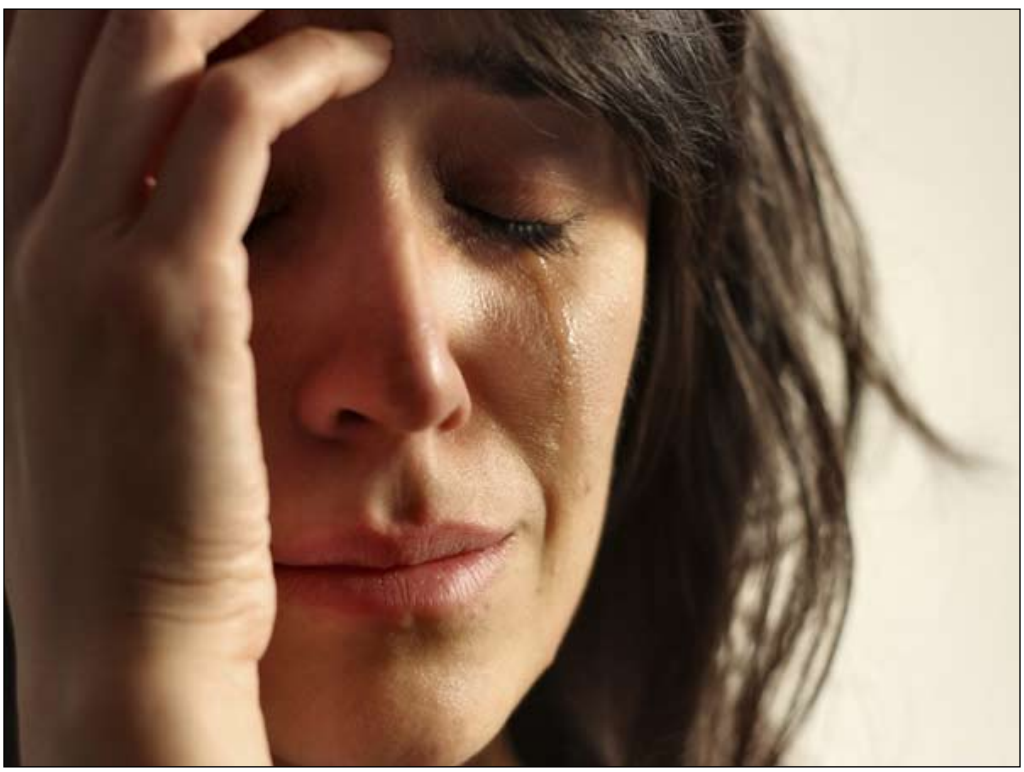
> **"In fact, pro-lifers should welcome Pollitt's contribution to the debate. Pro is likely to horrify and alienate everyone who isn't already initiated into her death cult."**

Grief: the silent burden of a post-abortive woman

By Jess Clark

Editor's note. We published this incredible post a while back. However, the message is so powerful, inspiration, and relevant, that we are reposting it today.

I am defined, in some part at least, by the death of my extremely premature sons. My life changed during those days, waiting for their death and praying for them to live, and nothing was the same afterwards. I've been privileged in recent months to meet with a group of women who have shared the loss of their children, we all have different stories but are united in our grief and our triumphs and a lot of unanswered questions. It's been inspiring and heavy to sit through their stories, to listen to them tell about their children, whether they only had days or years to know them.



We've wept together and laughed together, and we are safe in that place, to tell our stories, to honor our children by saying their names out loud, to remember together what it felt like, what it feels like, to love someone in such a deep way, and to put a voice to the what-ifs that we won't get answers to, on this side of eternity.

I've been struck during those sessions, though, with an awareness of the complicated place that a post-abortive mother lives in. As a society, we are trained to think of an aborted baby as tissue, as products of conception, as an inconvenience we should be relieved to rid ourselves of. No regrets! they say, and a woman who finds herself with a gaping hole in her heart has nowhere to go. For the post-abortive woman who has been faced with the realization that there was a baby, to speak out would be to not only take on her own guilt and grief, but to face a doctrine of feminism that is rabidly and violently defended, benefiting no one.

There are ministries designed to support a grieving post-abortive woman, ministries like Rachel's Vineyard and others, but there is a haunting silence in the local church, in large part because these women carry such shame. The reality is, the numbers of post-abortive women in our midst are staggering. Any congregation would find a group of women in need of post-abortion counseling and support, if the question could be posed in a safe way. A woman who already feels the shame of her choice, the regret and the heartbreaking loss is not going to want to add to that load any degree of condemnation from her church and friends. She needs a safe place to share her story, without a hint of blame, because she already knows. Nobody needs an extra Holy Spirit, we have a really good one, but we all need a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on.

It is important for a woman grieving the loss of her child to be able to name them, to remember them, to mourn them. I think support could begin with something as simple as a private Facebook group for women in a local church or group to share stories with each other, to begin to break the silence, or a quiet meeting at a home, where women could sit face to face with their sisters in loss and find that they are far from alone.

How can we, as members of local churches and friends of hurting women, open a door to talk about the pain and the loss, to name their children, to grieve with those who grieve? What are some practical ways we could serve these women?

Editor's note. This first ran at bound4life.com. Jess Clark describes herself as "a writer and the mother of 4 small children. When she's not answering questions about the universe or saving the baby from himself, she blogs about adoption, mothering, life, and special needs."

Nearly-aborted, Ghanaian teenager wins Junior Olympic gold medal

By Dave Andrusko

I follow sports very closely, youth sports almost as closely, but I confess I missed that the first-ever Olympic gold medal won at any level by a Ghanaian was by 17-year-old Martha Bissah.

Competing last August in the Youth Olympics in Nanjing, China, Bissah ran a 2:04.90 in the 800 meter final, a new junior Olympic record.

According to a Ghanaian newspaper

> **An enchanted TV Commentator at the Youth Olympics commented about Martha's achievement saying, "Martha Bissah the Ghanaian has given us a glimpse of a glorious future...without any shadow of the doubt... that was world class....if someone can tidy up that technique, she will be a force to be reckoned with when she becomes a senior."**

But there is (to quote the immortal Paul Harvey), a "rest of the story"—that she almost didn't **have** a future. The details come courtesy of a story written for Ghanaweb.com by Ebenezer Afanyi Dadzie.

The headline gives us the startling truth—"Martha Bissah: A nearly aborted foetus now a world champion."

Remember that this story is being told from the perspective of the writer who describes his nation as a "third world country" where the chance to go abroad, and possibly take up residence there, is a powerful inducement for anyone.

In this instance, Bissah's teenage mother was an athlete and a good soccer player in her own right. She had a chance to go abroad (the story is a little vague here) when she checked into the hospital feeling poorly. She was pregnant!

Dadzie writes

The duration of the pregnancy made it somewhat safer for an abortion, as was suggested to her to enable her make that life-changing journey overseas. In a continent, where the desire to travel abroad for greener pastures compels many to embark on perilous voyages at sea with no assurance of a decent life, risking a month old foetus whose future was uncertain, would have been easier in exchange for a genuine expedition abroad to nurture a talent.

Besides, coming from a country whose heroes are rarely honoured, it would have been an opportunity to make a name for herself abroad and perhaps naturalize if she so wished, weighing the benefits of that option. But for reasons that one may not easily comprehend, the selfless teenage mother who was coincidentally 17 years at the time, abandoned her dreams and made what some would call a stupid or weird decision, by insisting she will keep the baby. She thus forfeited that rare opportunity.

Now call it a miracle or destiny, and you will not be wrong; because that foetus, which was not aborted in exchange for stardom and perhaps money in women's' football or athletics at age 17 abroad, has supernaturally turned out to become a world champion in athletics inexplicably also at age 17. Martha's age is now [half] the age of her mother who is 34 years old. Martha was discovered by her coach right from basic school through to SHS.

You can interpret it whichever way you wish, but the bottom line remains that this is undoubtedly a moving story that carries a lesson for all, most especially for those who will easily opt for abortions in similar or isolated circumstances.

The story is, of course, built around the truth that Martha could easily have been just another abortion statistic. But it is equally about what the writer feels is a government that does not support athletics the way it should.

Its relevance to us is that Martha is not counting on assistance from the Ghanaian government, according to Dadzie. Appearing on ETV's Revealed programme, hosted by Eddy Micah, she discussed some of the hardships.

However, Dadzie continued,

Despite the challenges and limitations, Martha says she was able to achieve that feat with determination and with the help of God and will never give up even if Government doesn't offer the needed assistance.

17-year-old Martha Bissah just after she won a gold medal in the Junior Olympics. With her are the Silver and Bronze medal winners.

Martha, who reads her Bible and sings at church when she is off the tracks, retorted ''If not God, who else", when the Host asked whether she believed that God played a role in her success.

Dadzie ends his story of the young woman who could have been aborted with this powerful conclusion:

The smallish-looking athlete, bubbling with hope and determination, with an amazing voice, thrilled the host Eddy Micah with a local gospel song after she revealed that she was a singer at church. Martha's choice of song in the Akan dialect titled ''Empare me se mesan mekyi", which literally means ''I will never give up", clearly sums up the story of how she has been lifted from grass to grace and the fact that she will never give up on her dreams…"

Top 10 Ways Media Spin Abortion as 'Moral,' 'Social Good'

from page 9

In her conclusion, she decided, "If Hollywood really wanted to show off its ability to shape public consciousness and change the conversation in the same way it contributed to the gay rights movement, 'Pro' ought to be a challenge to that industry to prove it can do what politicians cannot."

7. ELLE: Abortion is Ending 'Potential Life, Not a Life-Life'

Elle's Laurie Abraham not only interviewed Pollitt, but read her book as a "kind of call to action, an appeal to stop letting abortion opponents fill all the available airspace." Or, in other words, a call to "tell a different story, the more common yet strangely hidden one, which is that I don't feel guilty and tortured about my abortion. Or rather, my abortions."

She did so for Elle's November 2014 issue in a piece entitled, "Abortion: Not Easy, Not Sorry."

As a "highly educated daughter of a Planned Parenthood clinic volunteer," Abraham believed, "An embryo or a fetus is all potential." "Now is the time to say that I don't think that I killed anyone when I had an abortion," she said.

To describe her first abortion, Pollitt wrote:

"By 12 weeks, it has become a fetus, 2 inches to 3 inches long, with features that are recognizably human. Yet by my lights, a fetus at this stage is not a person in any real sense of that word. It can't live outside the womb; none of its organ systems is fully developed; and, most crucially, it's not capable of conscious thought, since the cortical synapses don't begin to form until the second trimester. The way I've always thought of it, in lay terms, is that I ended a potential life, not a life-life."

While "she sobbed" before her second abortion, she reasoned, "A third child would put too much strain on our marriage, I wanted to keep working, and I didn't want to cheat the children I already had."

8. THE NEW YORK TIMES: Abortion is a 'Right'

For The New York Times, Clara Jeffery recognized the book as an "eye opener for those who have never darkened the door of a women's studies classroom."

Although she never had an abortion herself, she helped friends terminate their unborn. Jeffery noted how, "contraception and abortion have allowed women to widen their worlds dramatically."

"If you're a woman, I don't need to detail all the barriers we still face," she assumed. "If you're a mother, I don't need to tell you all the ways in which the workplace is set up as if you didn't have kids, and schools, camps and childhood extracurriculars as if you didn't have a job."

"Motherhood is hard enough if you go into it willingly," she said. "And Pollitt is correct to insist that the right to an abortion is merely society's down payment on all the rights we are yet due."

9. NEW YORK MAGAZINE: Abortion is 'Good for Everyone'

"We should accept that it's good for everyone if women have only the children they want and can raise well," Alex Ronan wrote for The Cut, "which is both obvious and worth repeating in a climate that's openly hostile to women's lives, safety, and ambitions."

And Pollitt was the best champion of the cause. "Blending statistics, history, and stories of real women along with her signature wit, Pollitt is an excellent guide to the debate's most important questions," Ronan continued.

10. SALON: Abortion Is Valuing Women

Salon's Michele Filgate described Pollitt's book as "a refreshing and comprehensive look at abortion rights." Because, as Filgate whined, "There are many preconceived notions about abortion that lead to one terrible conclusion: our society doesn't value women nearly enough."

"One would think that in 2014, all women in the United States would have easy access, but that's somehow not the case," she said. "'Pro' is a passionate plea–and a book that is needed now more than ever."

That is the media take. That is the "feminist" take: the voices of women who regret their abortions, pro-life women, baby girls who are no more, don't exist.

Let's prove them wrong.

Editor's note. This appeared at newsbusters.org.

Brittany Maynard: RIP

By Dave Andrusko

NRL News Today posted many stories on Brittany Maynard, who after announcing she would commit assisted suicide November 1, sent out an incredibly powerful video announcing that she had postponed that action. Tragically, for whatever combination of reasons, Maynard, who was suffering from terminal cancer, did take her own life that day at her home in Portland, Oregon, by ingesting a lethal combination of drugs.

Her last Facebook page post included these words:

Goodbye to all my dear friends and family that I love. Today is the day I have chosen to pass away with dignity in the face of my terminal illness, this terrible brain cancer that has taken so much from me … but would have taken so much more.

Beyond saying a sincere and heartfelt prayer for Maynard and her family, what can (or should) we say about the unfortunate death of this 29-year-old woman?

We will remain angry at Compassion & Choices (previously The Hemlock Society) which exploited her tragedy from beginning to end. Adding insult to injury, notice how it seamlessly links these totally unobjectionable (even laudatory) thoughts

"In Brittany's memory, do what matters most. And tell those you love how much they matter to you…"

to a fundraising pitch

"We will work to carry on her legacy of bringing end-of-life choice to all Americans"

to quote Compassion & Choices President Barbara Coombs Lee.

I found a *CNN* story that ran just after noon the Monday after Maynad committed suicide exceptionally revealing. The headline was "Maynard's mourners grieve on social media; assisted suicide critics muted."

The implication of Ralph Ellis' story that those who counseled Maynard to not take her own life were critical of her. That simply was not the case. Our criticism was directed squarely at the vultures who nest at Compassion & Choices

For this young woman we felt only compassion and concern that she would make a decision that was wrong for her and would be exploited by the doctor-assisted suicide movement to attempt to take down laws that have many purposes but especially to prevent the weak from the strong.

One other very indicative comment from the *CNN* story. "People who voiced opposition to assisted suicide often gave religious reasons." What to make of that?

A couple of things. First, we are talking about matters of life and death and the deliberate decision to take one's own life in very harrowing circumstances. Would not matters of faith be a common thread? How could they not be?

Second, as always, this is an attempt to turn objections to the latest assault on our traditional understanding—that we don't, no matter what, assist someone to commit suicide—into essentially nothing more than a religious reflex. But there are a hundred reasons beyond matters of faith why a wide range of people oppose assisted suicide.

As Wesley Smith astutely pointed out,

All major opponents of assisted suicide of whom I am aware make rational, secular, and public policy-related arguments against legalization. They don't talk religion.

I am a consultant to the Patients Rights Council, perhaps the most prominent nonprofit educational organization opposing assisted suicide. Check its Website: It never mentions religion.

Moreover, in my view, assisted suicide has been primarily thwarted by the disability rights movement, most members of which are distinctly secular, generally liberal politically, and indeed, not pro-life on abortion.

I will end where I began—offering a prayer for Maynard's family. As I mentioned in my last post, their wellbeing was a very, very high priority for Maynard.

Brittany Maynard

She hoped her mother does not "break down" or "suffer from any kind of depression" and for her husband, "There's no part of me that wants him to live out the rest of his life just missing his wife."

Rest in Peace, Brittany Maynard.