

TEXAS NEWS

RIGHT TO LIFE

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March 2017

INSIDE

Boots on the
Ground awards

Texas falls
13 rankings



Will ‘Pro-Life’ bills actually save lives?

Much coverage has focused on recent Pro-Life proposals in the Texas Legislature, both from the executive branch and recently filed bills. Some of the proposals require death certificates for the unborn victims of abortion, mandatory burial or cremation of unborn victims’ bodies, or prohibit the sale of fetal tissue.

These policies, while well-intended, only take effect after an abortion. Although these measures reflect the values of Texans — ensuring dignity is afforded to all innocent humans when they die, regardless of circumstance — the proposals do not stop abortion, nor do they offer protection to pregnant women.

The 85th Texas Legislature includes 98 representatives in the 150-member Texas House who can be relied on to publicly oppose abortion. Similarly, the 31-member Senate opened with 21 members professing to want to protect the unborn and abortion-vulnerable pregnant women.

With overwhelming Pro-Life majorities in both chambers, the passage of nominal or symbolic Pro-Life bills that do not protect life before abortion would be embarrassing. In other words, this session will be a dismal failure if the Legislature fails to stop any of the 55,000 abortions occurring within Texas each year. Merely regulating what happens after a baby is killed by abortion is not enough.

The Pro-Life Priority Agenda — spearheaded by Texas Right to Life, joined by Concerned Women of America, Texas Eagle Forum, Texas Values, Southern Baptist Convention of Texas, Grassroots America-We the People, and several other groups — specifically outlines several measures that would directly reduce the number of abortions in Texas.

Legislation (HB 1971) by state Rep. Matt Schaefer, R-Tyler, and state Sen. Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills, would close loopholes in state law that do not protect unborn children with disabilities from abortion.

The most important Pro-Life bill of the session (SB 415 by state Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, and HB 844 by state Rep. Stephanie Klick, R-Fort Worth) would ban dismemberment abortions — the gruesome and barbaric abortion procedure that takes the life of a baby by ripping him or her apart limb by limb.

Texans have again sent a Pro-Life majority to the Legislature, which includes some who merely profess that view for re-election efforts. Regardless, voters across the state expect those campaign promises to be upheld, protecting innocent unborn human Life and safeguarding pregnant women. The 85th Legislature must not merely regulate what happens after an abortion, but must focus on stopping abortions and saving countless lives.

■ by Emily Cook

Y’ALL-led activism day

Texas Right to Life is excited to welcome people of all ages to Austin for the Young Adult Life Link (Y’ALL) Activism Day! You will not only learn the path of a bill becoming a law from a firsthand perspective, but you will also participate in the legislative process.

A personal visit from a constituent stands out from mounds of emails and calls to legislators’ offices. Your presence at the Capitol makes a tremendous impact on Pro-Life policies! Our legislative team will prepare you before meeting your elected official to help you effectively communicate the Pro-Life message your legislator needs to hear.

Join us as we tour the Capitol, learn from Texas Right to Life’s full-time lobbying team, strengthen the Pro-Life community, and meet some of our state’s greatest Pro-Life champions.

RSVP by March 10, 2017, at ProLife@TexasRightToLife.com.

Please let us know the names of attendees in your group and if you would like to carpool with people from Dallas, Houston, or McAllen to Austin, or if you will arrange your own travel to Austin.

Feminist for Life tour

Texas Right to Life invited Feminists for Life of America to tour the state and speak to medical and law schools informing students of the connections between sex trafficking, pornography, abortion, and women's abuse. Pro-Life groups at each school hosted Joyce McCauley-Benner to speak over a free meal for students funded by TRTL and to learn about what they can do to help as future medical professionals and attorneys. The message was full of both harsh realities and hope: the U.S. is rife with sex trafficking; the average victim is abducted at age 13; traffickers use strategic practices of mental abuse to keep victims from trying to escape; many victims are forced to abort; victims who are "dropped" from a trafficking ring often turn to porn or prostitution because they have no skills or other experience; but victims who recover are making waves of change as vocal witnesses. They find new ways to

catch perpetrators, rescue victims, and encourage women with crisis pregnancies to begin life anew by choosing love of their child over fear.



Joyce McCauley-Benner spoke to students at five medical schools and one law school in Texas: UT San Antonio Health Science Center, Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, Texas A&M Health Science Center, University of Houston Law Center, University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston, and McGovern Medical School.

Co-presidents of Physicians for Life at McGovern Medical School, Caleb Owsley and Logan Oliver, hold their sign with Joyce McCauley-Benner of Feminists for Life and Veronica Arnold Smither of Texas Right to Life.



Joyce's emotional story of surviving rape and a subsequent crisis pregnancy inspired her to work as an advocate for women in crisis pregnancies, as well as become an expert in sex-trafficking recovery.



Several of the events drew more than 100 students each and sparked questions such as, "What can a medical student do to spot a sex trafficking victim or help with a crisis pregnancy?" and "What can we do to end the demand for porn and the sex trade?"

Boots on the Ground

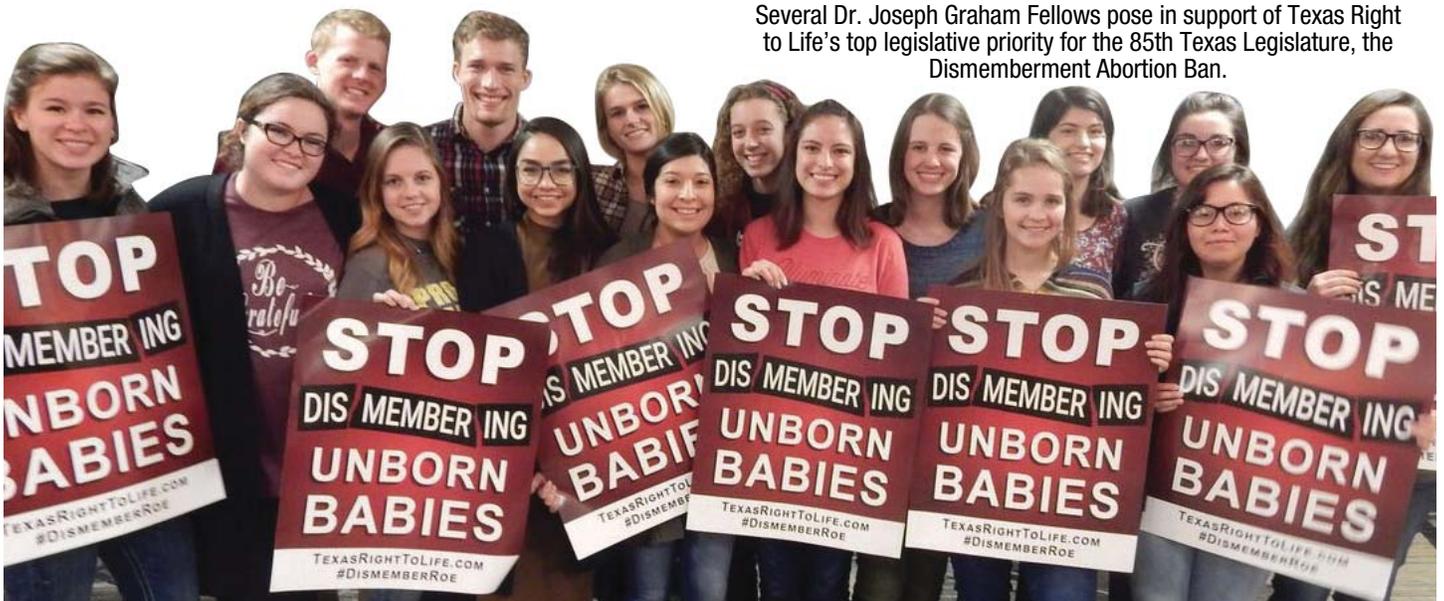
Two hundred college students from 19 Texas universities converged on the University of Texas in Austin in January to attend the 4th annual Boots on the Ground college student conference. The conference occurred January 28-29 and commemorated the 44th anniversaries of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* with the March for Life in Austin. The theme of this year's conference centered on embracing diversity among people of all backgrounds, political parties, or religious views and uniting Pro-Lifers to make abortion unthinkable. As a result, conference attendees heard from a diverse array of speakers throughout the weekend, including a Pro-Life Democrat, a woman of Chinese descent who survived the China's one-child policy, and a biblical counselor explaining Pro-Life biblical principles.

Apostle Claver Kamau-Imani of RagingElephantsRadio.com opened the conference on Saturday morning with his view of the impact abortion has in the black community. After the students participated in the March, Lisa Smiley joined them to share her family's story of rejecting the Chinese one-child policy by having five children and immigrating to New Zealand then to the U.S. Following the "Battle of the Universities," in which each school competed in lighthearted games, Texas Right to Life Legislative Director John Seago taught secular Pro-Life philosophies for students to present on their campuses. James Steward, a post-abortive father and biblical counselor, closed Day One of the conference with a speech outlining biblical Pro-Life principles. When the conference concluded for the day, attendees used free time to explore Austin or get some much needed sleep.

Although some conference-goers were apprehensive about the seminar by Cecilia Brown, president of the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians, Brown kept her focus narrow on the Life issues, urging students to seek uniting principles to end abortion rather than be distracted by differences. Breakout sessions filled the rest of the morning. The first block of sessions included learning how to collaborate with and appeal to diverse campus groups from Students for Life of America's Southwest Regional Coordinator, Jillian Ferguson, and former Obama White House staffer and Pro-Life Democrat Michael Wear. The second set of breakout sessions included Theresa Camara of the Houston Coalition for Life, who gave an overview and brief training on sidewalk counseling, and ChroniclesOfRadness.com blogger Kristen Hatten, who instructed students on how best to defeat cultural Marxism. The conference's final keynote speaker, Joyce McCauley-Benner of Feminists for Life of America, spoke about her experience of conceiving a child after rape, choosing Life, and the ways Pro-Lifers should support women following sexual assault. To end the conference, the Texas Right to Life Education Department awarded trophies to campus Pro-Life clubs and club members for various awards (see page 7 for full list of winners).

Students returned to their campuses with a renewed respect for their student body and a new outlook on how best to reach students, in all their diversity, to continue promoting Life on campus.

Several Dr. Joseph Graham Fellows pose in support of Texas Right to Life's top legislative priority for the 85th Texas Legislature, the Dismemberment Abortion Ban.





Boots on the Ground attendees had the opportunity to take part in the Texas March for Life while in Austin.

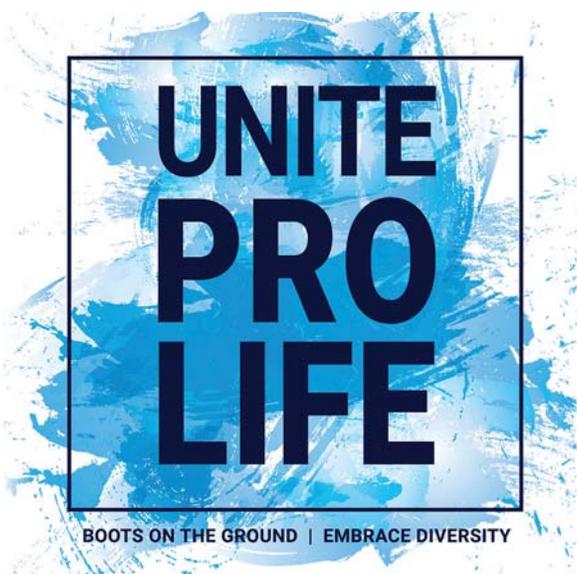
Boots on the Ground Successes



Former Obama White House staffer and Pro-Life Democrat Michael Wear (pictured here with Katherine S. of the Texas A&M Pro-Life Aggies) shared his thoughts on the increasingly anti-Life Democratic Party platform and his ideas on how best to effect change with a given political party.



University of Dallas Crusaders for Life President, Teresa Roach, accepts an award from Texas Right to Life Education Director, Veronica Arnold Smither.



Texas Right to Life Legislative Director, John Seago, continues to discuss secular Pro-Life philosophies with the students following his address on Saturday evening.

Texas Faith & Family Day

At the Capitol

March 16, 2017
Austin, Texas

Make a difference for faith and family in Texas!

Join us for an impactful day at the Texas Capitol where you will equip yourself with important information on Pro-Life and family values issues, rally with like-minded Texans from across the state, and engage your elected officials in person - all during the 85th Session of the Texas Legislature.

Looking for an opportunity to visit the Capitol? Wondering when is the best time to see the Texas Legislature in action? On Thursday, March 16, Texans from across the state will gather in Austin for Faith and Family Day.

Statewide organizations, including Texas Right to Life, are again partnering together to promote and celebrate an atmosphere in Texas that honors and seeks to protect Life, religious liberty, and our rights to defend them.

The day will begin in the Capitol Auditorium at 8:30 a.m. with important issue briefings from state leaders and elected officials. Guests will learn which bills are top

priority and how to make an impact for family values during the legislative session.

A rally will take place at noon on the south steps of the Capitol, followed by lunch. Afterward, guests will be encouraged to visit the offices of their senators and representatives to speak about the Pro-Life, pro-family bills that have been filed.

Texas Right to Life looks forward to participating in the activities and give Texans a look into the daily life of a Pro-Life lobbyist. Let us know if you plan to attend and we'll see you in March!

Planned Giving: Leaving a legacy after you are gone

Many people generously support Texas Right to Life, but few have considered giving to Texas Right to Life after they are gone.

Leaving a legacy allows for the Culture of Life to be built and strengthened for many years to come.

Texas Right to Life works with PhilanthroCorp to ensure that your family knows your wishes and you leave the legacy you desire. By providing estate planning through a biblical lens, PhilanthroCorp affords you the opportunity to bless each child or grandchild according to his needs and

abilities, while also continuing the life-saving work of God's mission at Texas Right to Life.

Resources such as the equity in your home, life insurance, and retirement plans can be stewarded after you leave the earth. Ensuring that your resources are transferred to responsible and godly stewards for greater impact in the Kingdom is the heart of why we want to help you plan your estate.

The process provided to you through PhilanthroCorp is not meant to tell you what to do. Rather, they will have multiple conversations getting to know

you and asking you the right questions so you are able to discern what is best for you and the legacy you wish to leave.

The process provided through PhilanthroCorp is not meant to tell you what to do. Rather, they will have multiple conversations to learn about you and ask questions to help you discern legacy you wish to leave.

Your estate gift will provide funding to advance the Culture of Life in a season when the harvest has never been riper.

Supporter spotlight: Meet the Bolfings of Bolfings Brother Marble, Inc.



To be truly Pro-Life means to value and love the gift of family. The Bolfings represent not only a strong Pro-Life family but also the epitome of generational giving. Bob Bolfing, affectionately called Pappa B., set a strong example of being active with his Pro-Life convictions.

As an employee of Exxon, Pappa B. took advantage of their corporate match opportunity to double the impact of his gift to Texas Right to Life.

One of Bob's sons, Phil Bolfing, followed his father's example of helping Texas Right to Life save more lives.

Phil and his wife Rose Anne have heard the call to help save lives and responded with generosity, faithfulness, and raw zeal. Since 2000, this inspiring couple has been involved with Texas Right to Life, most notably with their corporate sponsorship of the Texas Right to Life Committee by their business, Bolfing Brothers Marble, Inc.

Recognizing the importance of a strong community within the Pro-Life movement, the Bolfing family also hosts Dr. Joseph Graham Fellows at their ranch each year for a day of shooting.



While at first hesitant to be featured in the Texas Right to Life newsletter, Phil and Rose Anne agreed when they realized their candor could serve as a source of encouragement to our supporters as you also partner with us to save lives.

Why are you Pro-Life?

Phil: Jesus Christ was once a fetus too.

Rose Anne: We can't stomach the alternative.

What motivated you to become involved with Texas Right to Life?

Rose Anne: Watching an early film about the facts of abortion in 1973 in our first parish as newlyweds. I was born on January 22, a sad anniversary of the tragedy that is the defining issue of our time. EVERYTHING, I mean everything else is secondary in our lives, personally and as citizens of this country.

What aspect of Texas Right to Life's work gives you the most hope for Texas?

Phil: Those who tirelessly work with the legislature year after year.

Rose Anne: Involving the college interns and training them for battle. They are the seeds and the future hope of changing hearts.

What has been the biggest blessing in your life from being involved with Texas Right to Life?

Rose Anne: Our acquaintance with Dr. Joseph Graham, his wife Mary Jo, and the relationship we have grown to cherish with Jim and Elizabeth Graham. We have experienced their true Catholic faith and total devotion to the cause of the unborn, starting 4 decades ago with monthly "thank you" calls and updates from Dr. Graham. The next generation invited us to become more active on the political side but that was not our calling.

What would you say to people who are Pro-Life but not active in their convictions to encourage them to become involved with Texas Right to Life?

Rose Anne: We are happy that our company has been able to contribute and generate some enthusiasm from hunters like our family through our lifestyle. God can take whatever and

"Spotlight" continued on page 9→

BotG Pro-Life student group awards and winners

GOLD DIGGER\$–Award for Unique Fundraiser
Dustdevils for Life at Texas A&M International University
Dustdevils for Life hosted a Viva La Vida fundraiser on Mexican Independence Day and sold Mexican food as a fundraiser for their club.

Pro-Life Party Crashers–Award for Unique Social Event
Lumberjacks for Life at Stephen F. Austin State University
Lumberjacks for Life hosted a murder mystery dinner party for their club members during which those in attendance solved a fictional crime.

Lend Me Thine Ears–Award for Most Pro-Life Speakers on Campus
Pro-Life Aggies at Texas A&M University
The Pro-Life Aggies hosted ten speakers in the fall 2016 semester alone!

The Tin Man Award–Most Philanthropic Group
Mustangs for Life at Southern Methodist University
This is the second consecutive year Mustangs for Life has won this award by volunteering their time at pregnancy resource centers, nursing homes, and soup kitchens.

Defender of Life Award–Most Activism Efforts
Texas Students for Life at the University of Texas
Texas Students for Life consistently hosts information tables on campus to educate on Pro-Life issues and to expose Planned Parenthood's unethical practices.

Harvard Dropout Whiz–Award for Most Social Media Savvy Group
Raiders Defending Life at Texas Tech University
Raiders Defending Life promotes their group on four social media platforms (Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook), plus they have a bi-yearly newsletter.

Blastocyst Award–Fastest Growing Pro-Life College Club
TCU Students for Life at Texas Christian University
After being founded in April 2016, TCU Students for Life already has 20 regular members attending meetings and events.

Socrates Award–Most Tabling Efforts on Campus
Pro-Life LeTourneau at LeTourneau University
Pro-Life LeTourneau regularly hosts information tables on their campus on various Pro-Life topics.

Sit Down, Wendy Davis–Award for Most Politically Active College Group
Crusaders for Life at the University of Dallas
Crusaders for Life's Political Chair sends bi-weekly emails to the group's members updating them on what's happening with Pro-Life issues in the political world, plus the group assisted in a campaign to re-elect a Pro-Life legislator in their area.

New Kids on the Block–Award for Newest Official College Pro-Life Club
Bearkats for Life at Sam Houston State University
Bearkats for Life was established as a club in fall 2016.

Teacher's Pet–Award for Highest Attendance at Boots on the Ground
Crusaders for Life at University of Dallas
The Crusaders for Life brought 40 people to the conference!

Outstanding Freshman Award
Alice Huseland of Pro-Life LeTourneau at LeTourneau University
As a freshman, Alice has been so committed to the welfare of the group that she stepped into the role of secretary when the group was in need.

Unsung Hero Award
Andrew Collart of Crusaders for Life at the University of Dallas
As the group's Political Chair, Andrew keeps the club informed about Pro-Life political updates. He is one of the most reliable members of the group, often reminding the group's president of upcoming events.

Most Likely to Succeed–An award for a young member with promise
Madison Campbell of Raiders Defending Life at Texas Tech University
Madison supports the club on a consistent basis, often opening up her apartment for club socials, and is considered a bright, future leader of the group.

Pro-Life Professional–A graduating senior who has been dedicated to the group throughout college
Tiffany Hatrel of Pro-Life Aggies at Texas A&M University
Not only has Tiffany been a dedicated member of Pro-Life Aggies for four years, she also fundraised so that the club could afford the \$900 fee for the full curriculum of the Abortion Dialogue Academy.

Texas falls in Pro-Life rankings, no longer a leading LIFE state

Since 2013, Texas has fallen thirteen spots (*thirteen!*) from being the 4th most Pro-Life state in America to the 17th. With a majority of state lawmakers professing Pro-Life views, Texas' dismal drop is telling.

Lack of focused, cohesive, clear leadership opens the path to disjointed, if not conciliatory, mediocrity with an absence of urgency. Although Texas Right to Life has been aggressive in pushing Pro-Life policies, the leadership of the Texas House has blocked substantial policies and passed only symbolic, Pro-Life-sounding bills that do nothing to stop abortion.

While Texas dropping in the rankings of Pro-Life states may shock some, Texas Right to Life sees the smoke and mirrors and posturing that has caused the decline. For example, most of the Republicans in the state legislature and a handful of Democrats vote Pro-Life and share our values regarding the sanctity of human Life. And yet, these same lawmakers were forced to mar our Pro-Life achievements by accepting a loophole (from House leadership) in our laws that does not protect unborn children with disabilities.

On the one hand, our Pro-Life achievements are envied across the nation, and on the other, not all unborn children enjoy the same protections in the womb. A closer look shows that hospitalized patients in Texas remain at risk of death by hospital committee,

which Sarah Palin astutely labeled "death panels."

During this current 2017 85th Session of the Texas Legislature, Pro-Life lawmakers *must* pass measures that not only reduce the number of abortions committed in Texas, but



also undermine the legal basis of *Roe v. Wade*. Real Pro-Life laws include these two components plus a third that draws attention to the humanity of the unborn child. These are the type of real Pro-Life laws that earned Texas that highly coveted 4th most Pro-Life state in the nation not too long ago.

But window-dressing measures (such as license plates) and feel good bills (like trafficking awareness with no enforcement) do nothing to advance the Pro-Life cause because such bills merely reflect our Pro-Life values, but do not stop abortion or offer new protections for pregnant women. And not all bills that deal with pregnant women have a Pro-Life purpose. Bills that discuss pregnant inmates are important health and safety measures, but these bills do not address abortion and cannot be considered relevant to the Pro-Life cause. Yet House

leadership spends time and political capital on these non-controversial "nice" bills while turning away from real Pro-Life bills that protect real, unborn children. This is why Texas has fallen to 17.

The Dismemberment Abortion Ban (SB 415 & HB 844) prohibits a certain specific, gruesome abortion procedure, protects pregnant women, drives the cultural conversation about the child being victimized, and deals another blow to *Roe*. The dismemberment abortion procedure is the preferred method to maximize the sale of the body parts of

victims of abortion. As an added benefit, outlawing dismemberment abortions curtails the profit margin of these abortion clinics that mutilate the little bodies of these children and their vulnerable mothers.

This type of legislation would actually save lives and more. This is the type of real Pro-Life bill that will put Texas back in the enviable top 10. Our Lone Star State leads in many areas of economics, education, protecting faith and freedoms, but not on Life... anymore. The leadership of the Texas House has significantly contributed to the decline of Texas' national rankings in protecting innocent human Life. When Texas fails to pass actual life-saving bills all Texans suffer. Babies die.

■ by Elizabeth Graham

←“Spotlight” continued from page 6

whoever you are and multiply it exponentially. Whatever skill or talent, passion or possession is ordinary to you, may be just what the organization needs. You will be so gratified to see the hand of God connect His need to your gift.

What would you say to someone who is considering financially supporting Texas Right to Life?

Phil: For every dollar given to Texas Right to Life, I believe God rewards a thousand fold.

Rose Anne: You can never overstate the blessings that come from God as a result of doing what He puts in front of you. Our business is now 40 years old. It is our face and our voice to the world. It is what God gave us to do on this earth to support our family. We have had some great years and some very, very hard years; this is where we are and no doubt God is sustaining us.

What words of encouragement in general would you give to Pro-Lifers fighting for Life with you?

Rose Anne: The older we get, the more we see consequences of choices. In our lives and in the lives of people whose stories touch ours, the more we see people cling to Life. At this age, especially the last 2 years, losing our parents, we are beginning to realize we have a bigger connection to the Communion of Saints than perhaps those who love us here on earth. The unseen and unknown is huge. Our hope for the goodness God promises us includes meeting those saints who sacrificed everything and those tiny souls who never walked on this earth. In the end, we want to be counted as in the Holocaust museum in Israel: “Righteous Among Nations.” It would be horrible to admit, “You knew and you did nothing.”

Memorials and Honorary Gifts

In Memory/In Honor of

Patricia Shaw
Paul G. Leininger
Dep. MCTRL/Marjproe Thornton
Jane R. Marlett
Joe Geisler

Given By

Lou Ann R.
Bart & Patsy B.
Edward & Lynne Carroll C.
David H.
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Texas Right to Life Educational Trust Fund Memorial and Honor Tribute

Please mail your contribution and this completed form to us.
Texas Right to Life
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Houston, TX 77036

Enclosed is our gift of \$ _____.

Thank you for your gift.

100% of your gift goes into our scholarship fund to educate and equip the next generation of Pro-Life leaders. No part of your donation will be used for fundraising, overhead costs, or salaries.

Because of your generosity, new Pro-Life heroes are being trained on college campuses daily. Thank you.

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