

# THE ERIE ECHO

*"voice for life"*

Vol. XLVI No. 1

www.PeopleforLife.life

January 2018

## 40th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast

People for Life's 40th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast is just days away. We are hosting a captivating speaker who has done some remarkable research and has many important, pro-life insights to share. You don't want to miss this one, so please go online or pick up the phone as soon as you finish this article and make your reservations.

The Breakfast will be held at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center once again, on Saturday, January 13. Doors will open and pro-life literature and merchandise will be on display at 8 a.m. The program will begin at 9 a.m.

Tickets are \$16 for ages over 12 and \$8 for ages 3-12. Children under three are welcome to attend at no cost. Tickets must be purchased in advance, by Monday, January 9. See page three to choose the most convenient option for purchasing your tickets.

Our special guest speaker is Ann McElhinney, pictured here. She coauthored, with her husband Phelim McAleer, the *New York Times* and Amazon.com bestseller, *Gosnell: The Untold Story*, published in January 2017. Ann and Phelim have also produced several movies dealing with contentious issues, including a movie about the notorious Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell. Ann was a general session speaker at the National Right to Life Convention in June 2017.

Ann's research as well as personal reflections will be eye-opening for many people. Please take this opportunity to introduce someone new to People for Life and the Pro-Life Breakfast or to deepen someone's commitment to the pro-life cause. This would be an especially great year to invite a pastor

continued on page 2

## PA House approves pro-life protections, Wolf vetoes

The Pennsylvania state House of Representatives approved historic pro-life legislation, Senate Bill 3, by a strong margin of 121 to 70 on December 12. Six Republicans voted against the legislation and 12 Democrats voted in favor. The bill had been approved by the state Senate last February by a vote of 32-18.

S.B.3 would lower the gestational age limit for elective abortions in Pennsylvania from 6 months to 5 months, a very reasonable, common-sense step to bring Pennsylvania's nearly 30 year-old abortion regulations inline with advances in medical science and technology. These advances have made it possible for babies to live outside the womb at younger ages and have revolutionized our ability to recognize and appreciate the humanity of the unborn child. Advances have occurred in areas such as neonatal intensive care, 3D and 4D ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging, in utero surgical procedures, the science of pain management, and the understanding of pain perception. Sixteen states have already enacted similar legislation to lower their age limits for abortion.

S.B.3 would also prohibit abortion by dismemberment (known in medical jargon as "dilation and evacuation"). Eight states have already outlawed this barbaric abortion method.

State Senator Michele Brooks was the

primary sponsor of S.B.3. State Representative Kathy Rapp sponsored a bill in the state House of Representatives that provided the original template for the Senate bill. Senator Brooks represents Crawford and Mercer Counties and parts of Erie and Warren Counties. Representative Rapp is the chair of the bipartisan House Pro-Life Caucus and serves Warren County and parts of Forest and Crawford Counties. The state Representatives from northwestern Pennsylvania who voted for Senate Bill 3 to protect unborn children were: Lee James, Mark Longietti, Ted Nesbit, Kathy Rapp, Brad Roae, Curt Sonney, and Parke Wentling. Voting against this bill to protect unborn children were Representatives Ryan Bizzarro, Florindo Fabrizio, and Patrick Harkens.

The bill was presented to Governor Tom Wolf on December 13. Sadly, he vetoed the legislation at approximately 11 a.m. on December 18. According to Wolf, S.B.3 was "a particularly vile assault on a woman's right to make her own medical decisions."

In a constituent letter, state Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, an enthusiastic supporter of the Governor incidentally, offered a litany of excuses for voting against S.B.3 while describing himself as "pro-life." He invoked his oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, opining that S.B.3 is "unconstitutional and violates the 14th amendment.

The 14th amendment, ironically, guarantees "equal protection" and says that no one may be deprived of life "without due process of law." It also stipulates that the states must not "abridge the privileges" of citizens of the United States. Perhaps the Representative thinks that summarily killing a six-month old unborn child in the womb is to be considered a "privilege." Would five of the nine Justices of the Supreme Court go along with Bizzarro's lawyerly-sounding talking points and reject the will of the people of Pennsylvania? Maybe "ó but hardly because they are worried about the Constitution, which says nothing about abortion in the first place.

Another effort to protect later-term unborn children, the federal Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.B.36) was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives this past October, also by a wide margin, 237-189. Ironically, that bill's "Constitutional Authority Statement" cites the Equal Protection and Due Process clauses of the 14th Amendment as the very grounds on which the legislation is predicated.

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act had 182 cosponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives, including, not surprisingly, pro-life Representatives Mike Kelly and Glenn "GT" Thompson each of whom represents a portion of the Erie area. H.B.36 is now awaiting consideration by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

## March for Life Bus Trip

The 2018 Washington, DC March for Life will take place on Friday, January 19, and for the 45th year in a row, People for Life is organizing a March for Life Bus Trip for Erie area residents.

If you would like to be a part of the biggest annual pro-life event in the *world* this January, please join us. Come by yourself and team up with some of our folks or round up a group to bring with you. We welcome church, college, and high school groups, extended families, and groups of all types and sizes.

Our Anderson Coach & Travel buses will leave Erie at 11 p.m. on Thursday, January 18 and return about 2 a.m. on Saturday, January 20. We will also make stops at the Edinboro Exit of I-79.

The cost per seat is \$55. A few extra dollars are needed for Metro fare and meals.

We will be in Washington from approximately 7 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The March for Life program does not begin officially until noon, so there will be time in the morning for exploring our nation's capital. There are countless choices of places to go and things to see. Stop for breakfast at one of the congressional office building cafeterias, and you might, for instance, end up chatting with Congressman and Mrs. Mike Kelly, as some of us did last year. Tour the Capitol Building, visit the Smithsonian Museums, or check out the brand new Museum of the Bible, which just opened its doors on November 17. Visiting the Holocaust Museum is a sure way to renew and deepen ones commitment to the pro-life cause. The March will begin just outside the Museum of Natural History and not too far from the Washington Monument and the World War II Memorial.

Another popular place to visit is the beautiful National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. The largest Catholic Church in North America and one of

the 10 largest in the world, it is something to see for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. It is always a beehive of pro-life activity on the eve and during the morning of the March for Life. It has a nice cafeteria too.

If you were with us over the last few years, you will remember the long walk to and from the Stadium-Armory Metro Station. This January, we are going to eliminate that long hike by using a different Metro Station.

Thanks to the kindness of some local contributors, we are once again able to provide some sponsorship assistance to students and others on tight budgets. Inquiries are encouraged.

If the March for Life Bus Trip sounds interesting, you can learn more or, better yet, register at [www.peopleforlife/january2018](http://www.peopleforlife/january2018). Also see our stuff at [www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip](http://www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip).

Payments can also be mailed to People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512.

## Erie March for Life

The 2018 Erie March for Life will take place on Saturday, January 27. The Erie March is usually the first of our three January events This January, it will be the last one.

The Erie March was held a little later than usual last year, on Saturday, January 21, and a near-record 350 people took part, at least doubling the usual turnout. Let's hope that the even later date for 2018 will produce an even larger turnout.

Last year's attendance was the largest since the 2004 Erie March for Life and probably the second-largest ever. The 2004 March took place just three months after the opening of the American Women's Services abortion facility in Erie, which caused a strong surge in local pro-life sentiment and activism.

We often describe the Erie March for Life as a warmup for the Washington, DC March for Life and our annual Bus Trip. This January, however, it will be just the opposite. The DC March for Life, on January 19, will serve as a warmup for the Erie March for Life.

It is an unfortunate paradox, but the

March for Life Bus Trip usually attracts more participants than the Erie March for Life, even though the Erie March is a free event and requires only an hour or so instead of an entire 24 hours. The March for Life Bus Trip always receives a good amount of local media coverage, which is a very good thing, but so does the Erie March for Life. The news media attention, however, makes a sizeable turnout all the more essential.

The theme of the Erie March will be *Life: The Universal Language*. This is not to suggest that respect and appreciation for each individual human life is universal in our world. That is certainly not the case, not even in our own United States, as we know all too well. We also know that, unfortunately, human lives are valued and protected to differing degrees from nation to nation, culture to culture, and age to age. However, appreciation and gratitude for the gift of life does transcend national boundaries, cultures, religions, and eras. In every place and in every age, there are people who celebrate life, who value the gift of new lives, and who mourn the loss of life, especially when it

involves the death of innocent children. Accordingly, the pro-life cause has taken root all around the world, in Africa, in Asia, in South America, and even in Europe. In these times when international cooperation, inclusiveness, and interaction with other cultures is so highly emphasized and necessary, mutual respect and gratitude for the gift of human life, the thing that so many people naturally hold most dear, can serve as a valuable bridge, a universal language.

The Erie March for Life will begin promptly at 11 a.m. Please arrive at the Pavilion in west Perry Square in downtown Erie by 10:45 a.m. A brief program at the Pavilion will complete the March by 12:30 p.m.

Signs will be available for everyone who would like to carry one, but homemade signs with positive pro-life messages may also be used. People for Life does, however, reserve the right to exclude messages that do not reflect the purpose and spirit of the March.

Don't forget to wear warm clothing and comfortable, non-slip winter footwear and watch out for icy patches on the streets and sidewalks.

## FROM PAGE 1 Pro-Life Breakfast

or youth leader to join you, or perhaps a government official, your state representative or a city council member, for instance.

One of the lessons of Gosnell is the value of government officials who do not shy away from uncomfortable and controversial matters such as abortion but rather live up to their responsibilities without worrying about politically correctness or the opinions and biases of their higher-ups.

We are happy to report that pro-life U.S. Representatives Mike Kelly and Glen Thompson are both planning to attend. Erie native and former People for Life board member Mr. Matt Blackburn is planning to

attend on behalf of his boss, pro-life U.S. Senator Pat Toomey.

Our MC will be none other than People for Life's own First Vice President Marielle Lafaro. Music will be by Danny Fill & Friends.

Because a large group might have difficulty getting everyone seated together, reserved tables are available for parties of eight or more. Tables should be reserved when tickets are purchased, but if your group grows to eight or more as time goes by, just let us know. Ushers will be available at the doors to direct people to their group tables as well as to seat smaller groups and individuals. Tables seat a maximum of 10 people.

Free child care with fun activities for kids of all ages will be available while the adults

are listening to the speakers.

For more information and to get the latest updates about the Pro-Life Breakfast, visit [www.peopleforlife.org/january2018](http://www.peopleforlife.org/january2018) and [www.facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast](http://www.facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast).

## Gosnell: The Untold Story

Two cats walking around... in the procedure rooms, disposable instruments reused, blood stains, minors forced to have abortions, narcotics prescribed for patients not seen in three months of these were among the complaints hand-delivered to the PA Department of Health by an employee of Dr. Kermit Gosnell in 2001. Nothing was done. A woman died in 2000 after an abortion at Gosnell's facility, and by 2004 her family

continued on page 3

# Trump's Pro-Life Judges

U.S. Senate confirmations of President Trump's judicial appointments have pro-life leaders cheering. Very recent federal appellate court confirmations include:

- ★ Judge Joan Larsen to the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on November 1,
- ★ Notre Dame law professor Amy Barrett to the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on October 31,
- ★ Penn State Professor of Law and Criminology Stephanos Bibas to the Third U.S. Circuit of Appeals on November 2, and
- ★ Attorney Steven Grasz to the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on December 12.

The Circuit Courts of Appeal are just one step below the Supreme Court. New Supreme Court Justices are often chosen from among the judges who sit on these courts.

Joan Larsen, a former law clerk for Justice Antonin Scalia, was strongly endorsed by Susan B. Anthony List and other pro-life groups. Pro-abortion activists saw it differently. The National Abortion Rights Action League took to Twitter to sound their alarm: "Joan Larsen is skeptical as to whether abortion is a constitutional right & wants to ban abortion even in cases of rape/incest." People for the American Way complained that Larson had written on her website that, "Judges are supposed to interpret the laws; they are not supposed to make them." This, they said,

**Four ways to make reservations BREAKFAST OR BUS TRIP**

- 1. MAIL YOUR CHECK**  
People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512
- 2. VISIT OUR OFFICE**  
1625 W. 26th St., Erie Call for hours.
- 3. GO ONLINE**  
Visit [www.peopleforlife.life/january2018](http://www.peopleforlife.life/january2018). Use the BREAKFAST and BUSTRIP REGISTER+BUTTONS.
- 4. CALL 814.459.1333**

albeit with some plausibility, is coded language used... to signal a willingness to issue rulings that... do not recognize the constitutional right to abortion. The last thing the pro-abortion people want to hear, of course, is that judges are supposed to follow the laws and Constitution, not their personal pro-abortion agendas.

It was Professor Amy Barrett to whom pro-abortion Senator Dianne Feinstein famously complained, "Your dogma [i.e. pro-life convictions] lives loudly within you."

Professor Stephanos Bibas has been writing articles for *First Things*, the pro-life journal of religion in public life, since 2012; has been featured on the EWTN Catholic Radio network; has been active in the Orthodox Church; and was endorsed as a "terrific choice" by pro-life Professor of Jurisprudence Robert George of Princeton.

George also cheered the President's appointment to the Supreme Court of Justice Neil Gorsuch, a former colleague of his.

As the Chief Deputy Attorney General of Nebraska, Steven Grasz defended that state's partial-birth abortion ban before the U.S. Supreme Court.

President Trump has secured a total of 12 Circuit Court of Appeals appointments in one year, more than any other president in history.

## FROM PAGE 2 Gosnell: The Untold Story

had received \$900,000 in insurance settlements. Nothing changed. In 2006 Gosnell sent a woman to the hospital with a torn cervix, uterus, and bowel, with part of her unborn child still inside of her and the rest in a jar. No one at the PA Department of State thought the case was worth investigating. A Bhutanese refugee, Kamamaya Mongar was medicated to death by Gosnell's grossly unqualified staff in 2009. No investigation was deemed necessary. But one independent-minded narcotics investigator, after seeing the inside of Gosnell's "house of horrors," was moved to personally look into Mongar's death. The result was a Grand Jury investigation. The final report was a scathing indictment of the Pennsylvania authorities, as well as the abortionist. Gosnell was finally put away in prison for the rest of his life, in May 2013, after a trial the media wanted to ignore. And so ended a sordid career in the abortion industry that stretched all the way back to 1972.

### Memorials

<i>Given by</i> Marilyn Bartlett Linda Etter Cynthia Manna Ruth Kowalski Marla Pellegrino	<i>In Memory of</i> Erik Bartlett Mark Borowy Mark Borowy Mr. & Mrs. Owen J. Farnen, Jr. Mother, Jeanne Pellegrino	<i>Given by</i> Cynthia Manna Allene Kraus  <i>Given by</i> Allison, Brian and Stella Gieda	<i>In Memory of</i> Mary Pat Ringhand Richard Kraus  <i>In Honor of</i> Merry Christmas to Ray & Peggy Fitzgerald
--	---	--	--

### JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR DONATE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
 AFFILIATED WITH \_\_\_\_\_ PROFESSION \_\_\_\_\_

1. MEMBERSHIP DONATION    New     Renewal     DUES:    Individual \$10     Family \$20     Senior Citizen \$5   
    Student \$5     Group \$25     Patron \$50     Benefactor \$100

2. MEMORIAL DONATION AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory Of  or In Honor Of  \_\_\_\_\_

3. ADDITIONAL DONATION AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ Please earmark for \_\_\_\_\_    4. TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations may also be made using the DONATE button on [www.peopleforlife.life](http://www.peopleforlife.life) or by calling-in your credit card information.*

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

___ Educational Booths	___ Literature Distribution	___ March For Life Bus Trip Worker
___ Phone Calling	___ Public Demonstrations	___ Mother's Day Carnation Project
___ Office Attendant	___ Pro-Life Breakfast Worker	___ Erie March for Life Worker
___ Newsletter Mailing		___ Call when you need an extra hand.

Please make your check payable to: **PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC.**  
P.O. Box 1126  
Erie, PA 16512

Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible.  
The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.  
Registration does not imply endorsement.

**PEOPLE FOR LIFE**  
[www.PeopleforLife.life](http://www.PeopleforLife.life)

phone (814) 882-1333  
phone / fax (814) 459-1333  
office@peopleforlife.org  
[www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife](http://www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife)

**Mailing Address**  
P.O. Box 1126  
Erie, PA 16512

**— Office Location —**  
1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA  
Open 9:30 to 4:30 weekdays  
Call for evening and Saturday hours

## Sponsor a Marcher

Your sponsorship donation can send a deserving student to Washington, DC for the March for Life this January 19, or even make the trip to DC possible for an entire family, a family with a dream of going to the March but not the money to cover all of the expenses.

Fifty-five dollars will completely pay for one bus seat or allow two people to travel for half-price. Sometimes even a one-seat sponsorship can make all the difference for a family with several children. In some cases even a partial sponsorship of \$10 or \$15 can make the difference between someone marching in DC and having to stay home.

If you would like to help a marcher, please send your check to People for Life marked, "Bus Sponsor." Or use our online Bus Trip registration form. Find the March for Life Bus Trip "Register Now" button at [www.peopleforlife.org/january2018](http://www.peopleforlife.org/january2018). Under "Fee" select "I can't attend the March, but I'd like to be a sponsor." On January 19 you will know that someone from the Erie area is marching for life because of your financial backing.

## Breakfast Sponsor/Advertisers

Erie area professionals, businesses, and other organizations are invited to sponsor the 2018 Pro-Life Breakfast and be recognized with an advertising listing in the Breakfast Program. The one-line listings may include an address, telephone number, website, and/or concise message, as space permits. Sponsors also have the option of a year-long listing on [www.peopleforlife.life](http://www.peopleforlife.life).

The sponsorship levels are: \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$750, and \$1000.

Breakfast Sponsorships help cover the costs of community-wide pro-life awareness and educational efforts that are conducted in conjunction with the Breakfast and our other January pro-life events.

If you would like to be a sponsor/advertiser and be included in the Breakfast Program, please request a

## January 2018

[www.PeopleforLife.life/january2018](http://www.PeopleforLife.life/january2018)

[www.Facebook.com/PeopleforLife](http://www.Facebook.com/PeopleforLife)

### Pro-Life Breakfast

Saturday, January 13, 2018, 9 a.m.

Erie Bayfront Convention Center

Special Guest Speaker: Ann McElhinney

[www.Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast](http://www.Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast)

### March for Life Bus Trip

Leave Erie January 18, 2018 at 11 p.m.

Return about 2 a.m., January 20

\$55 per seat

[www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip](http://www.Facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip)

### Erie March for Life

Saturday, January 27, 2018, 11 a.m.

Begins and Concludes at Perry Square

sponsor form from People for Life, download one from our website, or use our online web form with a credit or debit card. Links for the downloadable and the online versions of the form are can be found at [www.peopleforlife.life/january2018](http://www.peopleforlife.life/january2018). To ensure that your listing will appear in the program, please respond by January 9.

## Student Essay Contests

People for Life and the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation are both sponsoring essay contests for students in grades 7-12. Both contests feature cash prizes. Word limits are 500 for grades 7-9 and 750 for grades 10-12. Students may write on the topic of abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, or stem cell research.

Grades 7-9 and 10-12 will be judged separately.

Students are welcome, but not required, to compete in both contests. For People for Life's contest, entries must be submitted by April 16, 2018 using [office@peopleforlife.org](mailto:office@peopleforlife.org) or P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512. For the PPLF contest, entries must be submitted by March 12, 2018 using [lifelines@paprolife.org](mailto:lifelines@paprolife.org) or 4800 Jonestown Rd., Suite 102; Harrisburg, PA 17109. All essays must include a cover page with the student's name, address, phone number, grade and school.

Contact People for Life for help selecting a topic or finding the most reliable sources of information for your research.

## H.S. Oratory Contest

People for Life's annual High School Oratory Contest will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at the Blasco Memorial Library. All high school students, grades 9-12, are welcome to participate. Each student will research, write, and deliver an original 5-7 minute pro-life speech on abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, or stem cell research.

Grades 9-10 and grades 11-12 will compete separately. The first-place winners will receive \$100. The second-place winners will receive \$50.

Advance registration is required. To register, students may call People for Life or email their name, age, grade, school, and phone number to [office@peopleforlife.org](mailto:office@peopleforlife.org).

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation is also sponsoring a high school oratory contest, but with a different format. Contestants will video record their speeches and submit the videos directly to the Federation. The submission deadline is April 16, 2018. For more information about the statewide contest, contact the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation in Harrisburg at (717) 541-0034 or [lifelines@paprolife.org](mailto:lifelines@paprolife.org).

## 2018 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2018

Jan. 13	Pro-Life Breakfast - Bayfront Convention Center, 9 a.m.
Jan. 18	March for Life Buses depart from Erie, 11 p.m.
Jan. 19	45th Annual March for Life - Washington, DC
Jan. 20	March for Life Buses Return - approximately 2 a.m.
Jan. 27	Erie March for Life - Downtown Erie, 11 a.m.
April 14	High School Oratory Contest - Blasco Memorial Library, Erie
April 16	Last day to register before the Primary Election
April 16	Last day to submit Student Essay Contest entries
April 16	General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
May 13	Mother's Day / Mother's Day Carnation Project
May 15	General Primary Election
May 21	Annual Election of Officers, 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
June 28-30	National Right to Life Convention - Kansas City, Kansas
Aug. 14	Erie Gives Day - Please support People for Life Education Fund
Oct. 13	5th Annual Life Run 5K, 10K, and Fun Walk