

Dorothy Talanda Passes Away

**Long-Time KRTL President Joined
Dr. Joe Kincaid in 1969**

By Robert Karrer

Two months after announcing the passing of KRTL founder Joe Kincaid, we are sad to report that Joe's co-founder, tireless volunteer, energetic, persuasive, and effective long-time president, Dorothy Talanda, passed away on December 9. She had celebrated her 92nd birthday the day before. She served as president from 1978 to 1983, and then again from 1990 to 1992. She remained on the board until the late 1990s.

Dorothy Stender was born in Kalamazoo on December 8, 1925. She attended local Catholic schools and graduated from St. Augustine High School at the age of sixteen. She received a scholarship to attend Nazareth College. On June 25, 1949 Dorothy married medical student Edmund Talanda. Dr. and Mrs. Talanda had eight children.

In 1969 she joined Virginia Ferraro and Dr. Joe Kincaid to form Kalamazoo Right to Life. According to Dorothy's own account, it was her husband's promptings that got her started. Dr. Talanda, along with many pro-life physicians across the nation, had been reading the medical journals. The AMA had changed its policy in 1967 and supported reform. Dr. Talanda was worried that reform was coming to Michigan if something wasn't done. "What are you going to do?" he asked Dorothy. She joined a committee at her local church and was soon connected with Joe Kincaid. The rest is history. For almost thirty years she served on the KRTL Board. Dorothy, Virginia Ferraro (another co-founder), and Dr. Joe were very active visiting churches, schools, and civic groups during the 1972 Proposal B referendum that would have reformed Michigan's century-old anti-abortion law. They also debated pro-choice opponents during that campaign. Of all the local pro-life leaders Dorothy spoke to more groups and churches than anyone in an eight-county area. With that kind of dedication and conviction, it's no wonder we won that November!

Many years later Nazareth College honored Dorothy as the college's "Woman of the Year for 1983." Truly, she was a remarkable person.



Dorothy and Dr. Edmund Talanda in 1971, just a few years after she started to work in the pro-life movement.

Roe v. Wade Memorial "Prayer for Life"

**Sunday, January 21, 2018,
3 PM, Bronson Park**

The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Immanuel Lutheran Church, and Kalamazoo Right to Life are hosting the annual event that remembers that tragic day in 1973 when the Supreme Court legalized abortion in the Roe v. Wade decision. The program will last about 30 minutes. In case of inclement weather the event will be held at Saint Augustine Crowley Center. St. Michael's Elementary School Choir will participate along with pastors from several area churches. Participants can bring donations of diapers and/or baby wips to go to either Caring Network and/or Alternatives of Kalamazoo.

TOP TEN PRO-LIFE NEWS FOR 2017

1. Neil Gorsuch Added to Supreme Court

President Donald Trump fulfilled a campaign pledge when he nominated a conservative to the Supreme Court. On January 31 he selected appellate court judge Neil Gorsuch to fill the vacancy created when Justice Antonin Scalia passed away in early 2016. Despite sterling credentials, Democrats opposed the nomination. They started a risky filibuster in early April. Senate Republicans countered by voting to end senate filibusters for Supreme Court nominations. Gorsuch was confirmed on April 7 by vote of 54 to 45. Three Democrats voted to confirm. While Gorsuch has yet to cast a vote on an abortion-related case, the fact that he is an “originalist” on the Constitution and that he upheld Hobby Lobby in its opposition to Obamacare’s mandate on contraception coverage while an appellate judge gives pro-lifers hope that he will be a worthy pro-life replacement to Justice Scalia.

2. House Passes Bill to Ban Abortions After 20 Weeks

On October 3, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would ban abortion past the 20th week of pregnancy except for the life of the mother or in cases of rape or incest. The vote was 237 to 189, largely along party lines. The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act was first introduced in 2013 after pro-life lawmakers concluded (based on medical science) that the fetus feels pain at the 20th week. The Senate has yet to consider the bill. Considering the fact that Democratic senators will have the option of filibustering the bill, the future of any final bill remains in doubt.

3. Pro-lifers Win in Special Elections

Due to retirements and to fill vacancies created when lawmakers joined the Trump cabinet, several special elections were held in 2017. Even though the elections were held in what were considered “safe” districts, Democratic strategists believed that President Trump’s unpopularity would translate to Democratic wins. The opposite occurred. Five pro-life Republicans won each election thereby main-

taining the same pro-life majority in the House of Representatives.

4. Pro-Lifers Lose Senate Seat in Alabama Race

On December 12, voters in Alabama picked a pro-choice Democrat to replace Jeff Sessions, who left the Senate to become Attorney General. How did this happen in one of the most pro-life, Republican states in the country? The answer: Roy Moore. Moore, a former state Supreme Court justice, was a very conservative, polarizing, pro-life candidate. In November came allegations that he had made sexual advances on a 14-year old girl and other minors back in the 1970s. Whether or not the charges were true, Moore denied everything. However, he did a poor job refuting the allegations and lost in a very close election. We have seen this before: Republicans choosing a candidate that is either too extreme, too religiously-affiliated, or one with foot-in-mouth disease. With Moore we added the new category: sexual skeletons in the closet.

5. Repeal of ACA Fails, Contraception and Abortion Mandates Continue

The Republican Party has on numerous occasions attempted to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) since its passage in 2009. When President Trump became president and when both houses of Congress were controlled by Republicans, most political pundits believed that the GOP would finally get their wish to rid the USA of the ACA. However, the “repeal and replace” agenda of Republicans failed to deliver. While the House voted for repeal by the slimmest of margins 217 to 213 on May 4, the Senate version failed in July when key GOP senators voted no. A second attempt in a scaled-back version, introduced by senators Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy, also failed in September when three GOP senators announced their opposition. The vote was never taken.

6. Illegal Immigrant Get Tax-Funded Abortion

Despite opposition from the Trump administration, a 17-year old illegal immigrant sought to have her unplanned pregnancy terminated. With help from the ACLU, the girl took her case to an appeals

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Memories of Kalamazoo Right to Life

Note: The following is the next installment in our on-going series commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the pro-life movement. Although the topic was presented in an abbreviated form in last issue's tribute to Dr. Joe Kincaid, a more expansive picture of Proposal B and the 1972 Referendum is needed. The coalescing of the various pro-life groups to battle the ballot proposal was THE defining element in the movement's eventual victory.

Voice of the Unborn and the Proposal B Referendum

by: Rob Karrer

Beginning in 1967 pro-abortion politicians (at that time led by Republicans in Lansing) tried to pass legislation that would liberalize or reform Michigan's century-old law banning abortion. Republican State Senator Lorraine Beebe, originally from Kalamazoo but representing a district in Dearborn, was the chamber's lone female and was one of the leaders in the reform campaign. In a 1970 speech she shocked colleagues by telling them that she had undergone a therapeutic abortion many years before. "Abortion--a word that brings about extreme and contradictory feelings," she said. "A word that means to some only ugliness--but to others, the beauty of peace of mind and the assurance of orderly life. To some it is a crime, to others a human right." Despite her eloquence and passion, every reform bill from 1967 to 1971 failed to pass.

While reform legislation struggled to gain traction, a small pro-life movement began to emerge. A few pro-life groups had formed in New York, Colorado, southern California, Virginia, Minnesota, and Massachusetts. Dr. Joe Kincaid, who had become alarmed by the push for reform, began receiving pro-life materials as early as 1968, including the first newsletter of the National Right to Life Committee in October of that year. Joe founded Kalamazoo RTL in the fall of 1969, probably the first permanent group in Michigan. He began communicating with other pro-lifers across the state. In 1970 he met Barbara Radigan and Mary Randall from Lansing, who had formed Michigan Right to Life Committee, and Peter

Hasbrook, the Associate Director of the Michigan Catholic Conference. From the Detroit area he met Gloria Klein, Arthur Barkey, and Dr. Richard Jaynes, an OB/GYN, all associated with the large People Taking Action Against Abortion (PTAAA). Joe and the Lansing ladies helped form Grand Rapids Right to Life in 1970 under the leadership of Jane Muldoon. As the national movement organized, Dr. Kincaid, Hasbrook, Radigan, and Randall attended the National Right to Life Committee's first conference held at Barat College in Chicago in the summer of 1970. Only 140 people attended from all over the United States, proof that Joe Kincaid was an active participant at the very dawn of the pro-life movement.

Realizing that lawmakers would not enact abortion reform, the Michigan Abortion Referendum Committee, an ad hoc group of liberal physicians, lawyers, and politicians, began a petition drive to let the voters decide. They needed to collect 250,000 signatures to place a reform referendum on the November, 1972 ballot. The proposal stipulated that abortion would be legal through the 24th week of pregnancy and not require state residency. A month after the Board of Canvassers approved wording for Proposal B, a cluster of two dozen small and independent pro-life groups formed a coalition--Voice of the Unborn--to defeat the referendum. Kalamazoo Right to Life was one of the principal groups and Joe Kincaid one of the state's top leaders.

Voice of the Unborn's affiliate members came from all points of the state: Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Cadillac, Alma, Flint, Grand Rapids, Holland, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Detroit, Lansing, Monroe, Petoskey, Port Huron, St. Johns, and Traverse City. The Radigan-Randall team was responsible for launching the groups in the south-central part of Michigan. In June, 1972 Dr. Jaynes became the coalition president. Dr. Kincaid also served on the executive committee along with Klein, Muldoon, and Thomas Bergeson, head of the MI Catholic Conference (MCC). Although the MCC was part of the grand coalition, the Catholic Church prepared its own separate campaign called "Love and Let Live." It printed 1,500,000 copies of the primary brochure, 4000 leader kits to the state's 950 parishes, 1,500 slide presentations on fetal development for each church, and 150 copies of a 20-minute film.

Voice of the Unborn agreed to spend \$250,000 on a media campaign. That would include radio and TV commercials. The coalition would also use the popular four-page pamphlet *Life or Death*, produced by Dr. Jack Willke, the founder of Greater Cincinnati Right to Life, who also served on the board of the National Right to Life Committee. Willke also authored the movement's first popular book, *Handbook on Abortion* (1971).

As the campaign progressed, pro-lifers faced opposition from key state newspapers. In mid-September a Detroit News survey indicated that voters would approve abortion reform by 57 percent. A second poll in October showed that the number had grown to 59 percent. Undaunted by the data, pro-life volunteers scattered across the state handing out brochures to homes, churches, factories, and county fairs.

Voice of the Unborn purposely decided to delay airing TV commercials until October 13. The group's advertising agency developed strategies to appeal to both black and white voters. Speakers from the various pro-life groups spent a final eight weeks crisscrossing the state with an unmatched intensity. In metropolitan Detroit PTAAA speakers visited 125 Protestant churches, 202 Catholic churches, 149 high schools, and 13 colleges. In Kalamazoo, Joe Kincaid, Dorothy Talanda, and Virginia Ferraro and a few other volunteers canvassed an eight-county area, speaking to church and civic groups, college and high school classes. They even debated opponents. Remarkably, someone from KRTL was out speaking almost every night. Dorothy Talanda and Virginia Ferraro were the most active speakers on the local Proposal B circuit.

Dr. Willke campaigned in Michigan in October, stopping in a dozen towns and mid-sized cities, and passing out thousands of his *Life or Death*. He also appeared on radio and TV stations.

Come election day, voters rejected Proposal B, 61 to 39 percent. Only two of the state's 83 counties voted for reform (Oakland - 51 percent, Washtenaw - 59

percent). The following is a sampling of counties that voted NO on Proposal B: Berrien-58 percent, Jackson-61 percent, Kalamazoo-52 percent, Kent-69 percent, Macomb-64 percent, Muskegon-68 percent, Saginaw-66 percent, St. Clair-88 percent, and Wayne-60 percent.

Overnight Voice of the Unborn became the darling of the pro-life movement. But what to do next? With victory in hand, would the coalition disband? While Voice of the Unborn was the initial step in building a cohesive state organization, its purpose was narrowly focused on defeating Proposal B. On December 2, 1972, some 60 coalition leaders met in Lansing to discuss the future. Even Dr. Willke came from Cincinnati. While Dr. Jaynes questioned the need to extend its life, Joe Kincaid argued that since Voice of the Unborn "was born in a political situation," it might not receive tax-exempt status. He called for the formation of a new organization without a political connection that would be eligible for tax-exemption. After discussion participants approved a motion to form two groups--one educational, the other geared for political action.

In January, Joe met with nine other leaders to craft this new group's organization structure. More progress was made at a February meeting with 40 leaders. Dr. Jaynes and the two Lansing women were beginning to withdraw from leadership. Meanwhile, Judge James Ryan's star was rising. Ryan, associated with Gloria Klein's People Taking Action Against Abortion (soon to be renamed Lifespan), worked tirelessly during the referendum. When Michigan Citizens for Life was finally incorporated with by-laws in March, 1973, Ryan became the group's first president. He would later serve on the Michigan Supreme Court (1975-1985) and in 1985 was nominated to the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by President Reagan. He served until 2000.

At that March meeting, Gloria Klein was tapped to become the group's official delegate to the National Right to Life Committee Board of Directors. Dr. Joe Kincaid was chosen as vice-president. He retained that title until 2014.

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by the American taxpayers. The girl, who had entered the US illegally from Central America, claimed that she wanted to become a nurse. Having a baby was not part of her plans. Pro-lifers argued that granting this abortion would encourage more pregnant woman to cross the border with the intention of procuring abortions.

7. Planned Parenthood Under Investigation

On December 7, the US Department of Justice announced that it will open an investigation of Planned Parenthood's alleged policy of trafficking in fetal organs. When Daniel Deleiden and his Center for Medical Progress released his dozen videos back in 2015, pro-life lawmakers cried foul but the Obama administration did nothing to get the truth. Obama believed Planned Parenthood's contention that it had done nothing wrong; the guilty party was the Center for Medical Progress. Daleiden has spent the better part of two years trying to stay out of prison while the real guilty party - Planned Parenthood - remains the paragon of virtue as portrayed by the mainstream press.

8. KRTL Founders, Dr. Joe Kincaid and Dorothy Talanda, Pass Away

In local pro-life news, Kalamazoo lost two genuine pioneers. On October 20, Dr. Joseph Kincaid passed away at the age of 85. He was engaged in pro-life work up to the end having attending a monthly board meeting three days before his death. Dr. Joe founded KRTL in late 1969, one of the first pro-life groups in the state. To defeat a pro-abortion referendum in 1972, Joe and a few other leaders formed Voice of the Unborn, a coalition of about two dozen independent pro-life groups. Voice of the Unborn was victorious winning 61 percent of the vote. After the Roe decision that negated the win, Joe led the drive to create Michigan Citizens for Life. He became its first vice-president, a title he held for 40 years. MCL changed its name to Right to Life of Michigan in 1979. Joe was one of the state's pro-life giants and will be sorely missed. On December 9, Dorothy Talanda passed away at the

age of 92. Dorothy had been KRTL president from 1978 to 1983 and again from 1990 to 1992. She was with Joe at the very beginning, was very active during the 1972 Proposal B referendum, and attended RLM State board meetings for years. She and Joe were the faces of the movement for years.

9. British Parents Lose Battle, Charlie Gard Dies

On July 28, one-year-old Charlie Gard died in a British hospital. He was born with a rare genetic disorder. When the parents found an American doctor willing to treat the boy, the hospital refused to release Charlie, believing that his condition was irreversible and that he should be allowed to die a natural death. While this story was not concerned with abortion, it reached into aspects of infanticide. The hospital in England should have allowed Charlie to be moved to the United States for experimental treatment. Charlie's parents must be commended for their determination in making every effort in their attempt to save his short life. Indeed, all life is precious.

10. Three Pro-Life Leaders Die in 2017

The year 2017 saw three pro-life champions pass away. On January 7, pro-life journalist Nat Hentoff died at the age of 91. A committed liberal, Hentoff became pro-life in the early 1980s when he linked human rights with the right to life of the unborn or handicapped newborn. On February 18, Norma McCorvey passed away. She was the original Roe in the Roe v. Wade decision of 1973. Formerly a pro-choice activist, McCorvey became a Christian in the mid-1980s. She also converted to the pro-life camp at the same time. Appellate Court Judge John Noonan died on April 17. Back in the 1960s when he was a law professor at Notre Dame and then at the University of California at Berkeley, Noonan was a prolific pro-life scholar. He wrote many journal articles arguing against abortion reform in the years before the Roe decision. His *The Morality of Abortion* (1970) and *A Private Choice* (1979) were two of the most popular scholarly books on the topic. Ronald Reagan nominated Noonan to the Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in 1986.

Mark Your Calendar:

April 26, 2018

KRTL's Focus on Life Dinner

KRTL will host our annual Focus on Life Dinner on Thursday, April 26, 2016. Again, the dinner will be held at Kalamazoo First Assembly of God's beautiful Ministry Center. Our guest speaker will be Americans United for Life's Chief Senior Counsel Clarke Forsythe. He is the author of the 2013 book *Abuse of Discretion: The Inside Story of Roe Wade*. More details will come in our March-April newsletter. Forsyth has been in the forefront for the past thirty years defending pro-life laws in state and federal courts and is one of the most prominent pro-life attorneys in the country. Come hear him talk about the future of legal abortion and our chances of seeing a Roe reversal.

Kalamazoo Right to Life
4200 W. Michigan Ave, Suite 10
Kalamazoo, MI 49006-5840

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Thank You **for your generosity!**

We wish to express our gratitude to all the people who made memorial donations to KRTL to honor Dr. Joe Kincaid's memory.
We received \$3,000!



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