

of Margie's leadership for the sanctity of life. I ask unanimous consent that the column by former Kentucky State Representative Bob Heleringer be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal, July 14, 2020]

A DETERMINED MARGIE MONTGOMERY HAS BEEN DEFENDING THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE FOR 50 YEARS

(By Bob Heleringer)

In 1970, a gentleman named Bob Schulman occasionally appeared during the late evening news on WHAS-TV to read on-air editorials ("One Man's Opinion"). Wearing his trademark bow tie, he looked and spoke like a college professor. One night, he said it was time to liberalize the abortion laws in this country, to remove the legal restrictions that had made this medical procedure a criminal offense.

Watching at home that evening was a 37-year-old wife, mother, civic volunteer, Rosemont College graduate and former city editor of the Irvington (New Jersey) Herald newspaper, Margaret Anne "Margie" Montgomery. Alarmed, the then-president of the League of Catholic PTA called the station the next morning and was cordially invited by Mr. Schulman himself to give a response.

After she gave the first of what became thousands of public, passionate addresses defending the sanctity of all human life, her telephone rang for a week—some were complete strangers but all agreed with Mrs. Montgomery that "something had to be done."

Right there in her kitchen, a national, state and local Right-to-Life movement was born. (The "right to Life" is one of the "self-evident" unalienable rights proclaimed by the Declaration of Independence.) This Thursday evening, about 700 socially distanced people will gather at the Crowne Plaza hotel for the 47th annual "Celebration of Life" dinner that will also honor Margie Montgomery's remarkable 50 years of service on behalf of the greatest civil rights cause in our beloved country since the abolition of slavery.

When the movement she began outgrew her house, in 1973, Mrs. Montgomery opened a full-time operation in St. Matthews, where she still today, from a tiny and cramped corner office in a nondescript office building, oversees the state's lobbying efforts in Frankfort and Washington, D.C., runs an annual statewide convention, organizes the annual pro-life rallies in Frankfort and downtown Louisville on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the pernicious Supreme Court decision that legalized the killing of our preborn sisters and brothers, coordinates a double full-page ad in this newspaper on that anniversary with thousands of names of Louisvillians, organizes the yearly dinner with a national figure giving a keynote address, presides over the annual Walk for Life up and down Shelbyville Road, quarterback a political action committee that strives to elect pro-life candidates to public office (people like her that will "do something"), and still appears at every school and civic group that will have her to give one of her "talks," the central theme of which is "abortion stops a beating heart."

Now into the sixth decade of her vocation, this soft-spoken but determined woman has been the Gold Star Mother who won't let America ever forget the staggering human toll of this heretofore unknown constitutional "right:" the 61,628,584 babies' lives "terminated" (through 2017). She is still

Kentucky's first responder whenever and wherever human life is threatened, the full-throated voice for those who have no voice.

She didn't hesitate to use that voice when she confronted the very man who wrote the infamous Roe decision: Justice Harry Blackmun. When the University of Louisville law school favored Mr. Blackmun in 1983 with its Brandeis Medal, Mrs. Montgomery was in attendance.

When it was her turn in the receiving line, as he extended his hand, she asked, "How can you sleep at night knowing how many lives have been lost because of your terrible decision?" The associate justice of the United States Supreme Court audibly gasped and, as he withdrew his hand, Mrs. Montgomery quietly said, "I will pray for you."

Thanks to those efforts, and those of thousands of volunteer women and men from all over this commonwealth, Kentucky can fairly be called America's most pro-life state with an overwhelmingly pro-life congressional delegation and state legislature.

Elections have consequences, some good. Pre-natal killings in our state have declined from a high of 11,000 a year to "only" 3,000. Legislation Mrs. Montgomery advocated, the "Choose Life" license plates, finances more than 50 crisis pregnancy centers in Kentucky that, if only a woman will assent to let her baby live, she will be sheltered, protected, nurtured and financially supported. (As of 2017, there are 2,752 of these life-affirming centers throughout the country.)

This, then, is Margie Montgomery's most inspiring legacy: Her unwavering commitment to preserve, protect and defend all human life has directly led to an untold and unknown number of human lives being saved by women in crisis who got a timely word of encouragement and support, looked at a leaflet, spotted a billboard message, read an ad in a church bulletin, called a crisis hotline, saw their unborn baby move on a sonogram or ultrasound and blessed God's creation by giving humanity one more life to marvel at, appreciate, love and cherish. Those saved people walk among us every single day. As the Talmud says (paraphrasing): "(S)he who saves a life, saves the entire world."

REMEMBERING MARIA WHELAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on June 10, we lost an extraordinary advocate for children and families in Illinois. For more than four decades, Maria Whelan fought to ensure equal access to quality and affordable childcare. Today, we pay tribute to her hard work and life.

Maria was born on December 4, 1950, in East Hampton, NY. She was the third of 12 children. Ten cousins lived just down the road. Maria went to Clarke College and completed her master's at the University of Chicago. She supported herself working as a waitress and a janitor. It was in Chicago that she met Jack Wuest. They married and raised three daughters in Chicago's North Side neighborhood of Rogers Park.

In 1976, Maria was working with educators and advocates to help families when the local afterschool program's sponsoring agency closed. Maria and some of these folks formed what would later become the Carole Robertson Center for Learning. She served as the center's first executive director until 1989. Maria helped the center become a

thriving center for quality early childhood education. Maria continued her fight for families as the director of children services for the Illinois Department of Human Services and then the senior program officer for the Chicago Community Trust. In 2000, she became the president and CEO for Illinois Action for Children, which provides 150,000 children and families every year access to high-quality early care and education opportunities.

Under Maria's leadership, Illinois Action for Children expanded its scope. She helped create the Healthy Food Program, which helps families stretch their dollars by reimbursing childcare providers for the cost of feeding children with healthy food. Maria was instrumental in the development of Innovation Zones that connect critically important resources in some of Chicago's most underserved communities.

The Innovation Zones led to the transformative Community Systems Statewide Supports Program, which helps communities improve early childhood services with training, planning, and collaboration. Maria also helped move Illinois Action for Children into direct early childhood services with its early learning program centers in Chicago's South and West suburbs.

There was no one like Maria. Maria was tough, smart, passionate, and an authority on what needed to be done to best serve families in Illinois. I made it a point to meet with her. She made partnerships that mattered. Maria helped them launch the Lunch Bus with the Greater Chicago Food Depository to provide free summer meals to children.

Maria enjoyed reading, classical music, and spending time with her family in Vermont. And she always loved a good laugh. We will miss her smile, her wit, and her heart. She is survived by her husband Jack; her three daughters, Catherine Mary, Ellen Rose, and Maeve Margaret; her three grandchildren, Teddy, Archie, and Evie; and her nine brothers and sisters.

REMEMBERING JOHN "JACK" DUNFEY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the global community has lost one of our most active advocates for peace. On June 22, John Philip Dunfey passed away. Known as Jack to his many friends around the world, he was a World War II veteran, founder and CEO of Omni Hotels International, and the owner of Parker House. His impact, however, was far wider. Jack was an ardent supporter of social justice issues throughout his life.

Jack led human rights missions to many corners of the world, helping to free prisoners in Cuba, remove landmines in Angola and monitor the election in South Africa won by Nelson Mandela.

Jack was the founder and chairman of the Global Citizens Circle, fostering