Dear Pro-Life Partners, September 1, 2025

Fervent pro-lifer and defender of the family, Dr. James C. Dobson dies at 89
By Dave Andrusko (NRL News, 8/21/25)

Dr. James C. Dobson, a titan in the conservative Evangelical movement and a passionate pro-lifer, died on August 21 at the age of 89. Those of us long-time veterans of the Pro-Life Movement remember him for his unswerving and unfailing opposition to abortion. In no small measure, he helped assure the Republican party became the party of life.

"The contributions of Dr. James Dobson to the pro-life movement cannot be overstated," said Carol Tobias, President of National Right to Life. "He was a steadfast defender of the right to life and a highly respected leader whose voice carried great influence. With clarity and conviction, Dr. Dobson consistently affirmed the dignity of every human being and called upon the pro-life movement to remain unwavering in its commitment to protect the most vulnerable among us. His enduring legacy will continue to shape and strengthen the defense of life for generations." Indeed!

Along with other great champions of life, including NRLC's late President Dr. J.C. Willke, Dr. Dobson spoke at the gigantic Rally for Life '90 held in Washington, D.C. The Rally made an indelible impression on those of us privileged to attend on that sweltering hot day. Estimates of attendance inevitably lowballed the number. There could easily have been 700,000 of us gathered on the Mall. What a memory!

A great overview of the reasons for Dr. Dobson's heartfelt defense of life can be found here. He unveiled the logic—the slippery slope—of the assault on vulnerable unborn babies that inevitably leads to attacks on other vulnerable groups.In 2019, he was asked, "Dr. Dobson, would you express your opinion on the matter of abortion on demand? How do you see the moral issues involved, especially from a Christian perspective?" He responded, in part,

If the rights of an unborn child can be sacrificed by reinterpretation by the Supreme Court, why could not other unnecessary people be legislated out of existence? For example, the expense and inconvenience of caring for the severely retarded could easily lead to the same social justification that has encouraged us to kill the unborn (i.e., they will be an expensive nuisance if permitted to live). And how about getting rid of the very old members of our population who contribute nothing to society? And why should we allow deformed infants to live, etc? Perhaps the reader feels those chilling possibilities would never materialize, but I'm not so sure. We already live in a society where some patients will kill an unborn child if they determine through amniocentesis that its sex is not the one they desired.

The tributes to this great man continue to pour in.

"The world has lost a mighty voice for truth and an incredibly influential servant of Christ today," said Alliance Defending Freedom CEO, President, and Chief Counsel Kristen Waggoner. "Dobson's bold leadership and commitment to the Gospel shaped the lives of so many and will continue to do so many years after his passing."

"Dr. Dobson was a pioneer—a man of deep conviction whose voice shaped the way generations view faith, family and culture," said Gary Bauer, Senior Vice President of Public Policy at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. "His bold leadership, integrity, and compassion helped equip countless families to thrive in a world of shifting values. He was a mentor, a counselor, and a steady voice of truth in turbulent times."

“We give thanks to God for Dr. Dobson’s life, his family, and for the generations of believers strengthened by his ministry,” Florida Family Voice. “As we grieve this great loss, we also honor his legacy by carrying the mission forward: to preserve and advance the biblical walls of life, marriage, family, and religious liberty, and to remind the Church of its essential role in the public square.”

When my kids were growing up, I listened to him virtually every day on “Focus on the Family.” His “Adventures in Odyssey”—still airing today—was a great source of Christian entertainment which you could share with your children.

Like millions and millions of others, I will greatly miss Dr. James C. Dobson. Rest in Peace, Jim.