

Governor Declares January 2010 to be "Pro-Life Month" in South Dakota.

On December 29, SD Governor M. Michael Rounds issued an executive proclamation declaring January as PRO LIFE MONTH in South Dakota. For many years, South Dakota has been ranked as one of the most pro-life states in the nation. And, while January 22 is a somber time, in that it marks the 37th anniversary of Roe V. Wade, here in SD we nonetheless have seen progress, as past legislatures and governors have done much to further the protection of life in all stages.

We hope this proclamation leads to a heightened awareness not only of the progress that has been made in this area, but also of the work that yet remains to be done. Abortion numbers have remained rather static over the past several years in our state. There is now an entire generation of South Dakotans who cannot remember when abortion was not legal here in SD or America. Some of our citizens have come to accept legalized abortion as a necessary evil, or, at the minimum, "something that we cannot do anything about." And so, education of all ages of citizens remains to be done. This is one of the roles of SD Right to Life. Though a yearlong endeavor, we do provide some unique opportunities for this. As noted elsewhere on this site, it will soon be time for the annual "Hour of Reflection" ceremony. All South Dakotans are invited to come to Pierre on the 22nd for this special event in the State Capitol Rotunda. Speakers and singers will focus attention on past successes of the right to life movement in South Dakota, along with plans for the upcoming legislative session.

SD Right to Life and all pro-life supporters throughout South Dakota are certainly grateful for this acknowledgement by our Governor.

Then, you could also include the following excerpts from the official proclamation:

Whereas, in keeping with the cherished fundamental principle of the American people that life is a most valued part of our society; and

Whereas, Because SD encourages all people to embrace their rights to speak out in support of life, to participate in the political process, and to see this as a meaningful opportunity to help build a culture of life; and,

Whereas, In order to pay proper respect to the dignity of human life;

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, to hereby proclaim January 2010 as PRO-LIFE MONTH in SD, and all citizens public and private institutions, and all other organizations are hereby encouraged to take appropriate steps to recognize the dignity of human life and its paramount place in our society."

(signed by Gov. Rounds and SD Sec. of State Chris Nelson.)