

EMPIRE STATE FAMILY NEWS WATCH



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FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Rev. Bill Banuchi

I'm writing this on the National Day of Prayer, which was ruled to be unconstitutional by a federal judge. I'm so thankful there is a Supreme Judge whose throne is in the heavenlies and whose righteous judgment cannot be overruled by prideful men, (or women). How far we have fallen! Oil spill in the gulf, tragic flooding in Tennessee, the economy is still in the tank. My hope is that Christians will turn to fervent prayer, confessing and repenting of our own sin, to pursue a life of integrity and holiness so that God may forgive our sin and heal our land. We must pray like it all depends on God and work like it all depends on us. We must do both. There will be a further polarization of our society as seen in the debate over the Arizona illegal immigration issue. People on the left are not restrained by a Christian ethic, so you will see more violence from those who believe they are a law unto themselves. Look to Greece to see what the U.S.A. will look like in a few years if we don't see a return to godly principles. We ought to learn from observing other cultures and societies. *"...Without God there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience...without God there is a coarsening of the society, without God democracy will not and cannot long endure..."* —Ronald Reagan.

Please remember to support us faithfully with your prayers and finances. Use the enclosed response card or log on to our web site, www.marriageandfamily.org. We need your support to stay in the fight!

MAINE BANS GENDER SPECIFIC BATHROOMS

The Maine Human Rights Commission is proposing to ban schools from enforcing gender divisions in sports teams, school organizations, bathrooms and locker rooms, saying forcing a student into a particular room or group because of their biological gender amounts to discrimination.

The little girls' room won't be just for little girls anymore, if the Maine Human Rights Commission has its way.

The issue came to light last year when the commission ruled that, under the Maine Human Rights Act, a school had discriminated against a 12-year-old transgender boy by denying him access to the girls' bathroom.

Now the commission aims to issue guidelines on how schools should deal with similar situations in the future. It would make Maine the first state to implement such guidelines for schools as young as preschool and nursery -- and even some private schools.

If our legislators in Albany don't hear from Christians and traditionalists who understand the damage that is being foisted on our children, New York will follow in this hedonistic assault on virtue and morality. If you have not yet sent a message to your elected officials concerning the school-based "Bathroom Bill" known also as "Dignity for All Students" (S1987/A3661), please do so. When a budget is passed, the pressure to pass this bill will increase tremendously. The legislation is portrayed as an anti-bullying bill, but the reality is that it would open school locker rooms, restrooms, and shower facilities to students of either sex.

VICTORY IN THE MOJAVE

One recent victory was the US Supreme Court's decision upholding the public display of a cross erected in the Mojave Desert in 1934 by veterans of WWI who wanted to honor their fallen comrades.



Lower courts had ruled the cross unconstitutional and ordered it covered with plywood, but on April 28, in a narrow 5-4 decision, the Justices explained that the display of the cross was constitutional because "the Constitution does not oblige government to avoid any public acknowledgment of religion's role in society."

This is certainly a major victory, and it clearly demonstrates the impact that appointed judges have on an entire nation. It is therefore important in this election year that we vote for federal officials who will not only uphold Biblical standards but who will appoint judges who read and respect the Constitution. Let's pray that God will once again give us judges as at the beginning and lawyers as at the first, so that we can be a nation of righteousness (Isaiah 1:26).

TEA PARTY MOVEMENT IS A MOVIN!

Tea Party rallies are being held from coast to coast, even here in Albany! Has the present administration awakened the sleeping giant? I believe so. I have never seen such an interest in participating in this government of the people as I am seeing in the Tea Party Movement. And far from being ignorant rednecks as the press would have you believe, these are people who are studying up on their American history and are discovering what Ronald Reagan told us: "Government isn't the solution; it's the problem!" They reject the concept of the government plantation where the government takes on the role of "massa" and provides the people everything they need, so that if need be, they may one day take away everything they have. The Tea Party people realize that we must remain one nation under God, not many nations under the tyranny of an all powerful government.

I am encouraged to see even those who have looked to government for answers in the past realizing that this government thing is going too far in taking over private industry and now even the health care of every American. They realize Government makes a bad parent.

FIRST UN-AMERICAN AMERICAN PRESIDENT?

President Barack Obama again demonstrated his prejudice against the country which he serves as president, when he condemned the Governor of Arizona for passing legislation that would simply enforce federal law to protect the citizens of Arizona against illegal aliens who now claim rights in a country whose laws they would disregard. They remind me of the spoiled child who throws a tantrum because his parents won't let him stay out later than his normal curfew, because they have allowed it in the past. Now he thinks it's a right to stay out late. President Obama is encouraging the rebellious child! It's clear by now that this President is not an American in spirit. His values are not American values; his concerns are not for the people of the United States above the people of the world. His disregard for all things Christian, and his leanings toward secular socialism could not be more contrary to the American spirit.

Unfortunately, America made a mistake last election. If it is not corrected soon the United States of America will no longer be the great city on a hill, the land of peace, promise and prosperity we have become accustomed to, and perhaps have taken for granted. We must pray for our leaders, including our President and his family while we prepare to elect a new congress in 2010 and a new President in 2012.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH CARE DESTROYS THE FAMILY

Twice, I heard Nancy Pelosi in her defense of the National Health care plan speak of a mid-western farmer who was facing rising health insurance premium costs and his grown children were too busy raising their own families to help him. The suggestion was that of course the government must help. Herein lies one of the unintended consequences of this anti-family legislation. If we're going to have a strong nation, it will require strong families. Any program that takes the place of a family member works to break down the strength of the American family. That mid-western farmer's children should be helping their parents. That will keep the family together and will contribute toward the integrity of the family and the society. People are much less likely to scam their own relatives than they would be to scam the government. And if the family can't help then they can go to their church or to a private charity that is careful to dole out their resources only when there is a real need. That is how this nation has become the most prosperous and the most generous nation on the face of the earth. Without the sense of personal relationship to those in need we lose the integrity and efficiency that we have known. Because of increased mobility and technology we have already lost a sense of community in this nation that must be restored. The National health care plan, and any plan that substitutes government for family will have enormous deleterious effects on our society and must therefore be rejected.

OBAMACARE AND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Detroit, MI (LifeNews.com) -- Planned Parenthood is planning to open a new abortion center in Michigan and its staff say President Barack Obama's signing the pro-abortion health care bill is the reason why. Ironically, Michigan is the home state of Rep. Bart Stupak, the pro-life Democrat who enabled passage of the bill.

Planned Parenthood of Mid and South Michigan says it plans to open a new abortion center within the next 18 months.

The abortion business would add to the 15 locations it already operates in the Detroit area, which reaches as many as 55,000 customers annually. Unlike some of the other Detroit centers, which only dispense birth control and contraception, the new center will likely do abortions.

Lori Lamerand, executive director of the Planned Parenthood affiliate, told the Detroit News that the health care bill is responsible for the decision to open the new abortion facility.

