

*Quote of Day*

O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.  
Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising,  
thou understandest my thought afar off. Psalm 139:1-2

**Sanctity of Life Sunday**

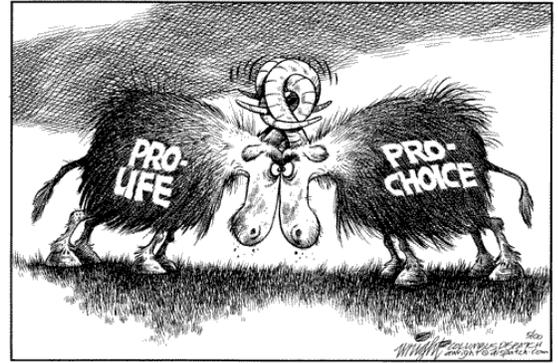
Michael G. Maness, adapted from en.wikipedia.org articles and Gov.Track.us

The U.S. Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade* on January 22, 1973,<sup>1</sup> simultaneously with *Doe v. Bolton*, ruling 7-2 that a “right to privacy” under the due process clause of the 14th Amendment extended to a woman’s decision to have an abortion. Yet, the “right to privacy” must be balanced against the state’s two interests regulating abortions: 1) protecting prenatal life and 2) protecting women’s health, resolving that balancing those two interests tied the test to state regulation of abortion to the trimester of pregnancy. Later, the Court later rejected *Roe*’s trimester framework affirming *Roe*’s central holding that a person has a right to abortion until viability. *Roe* defined “viable” as being “potentially able to live outside the mother’s womb, albeit with artificial aid,” adding that viability “is usually placed at about seven months (28 weeks) but may occur earlier, even at 24 weeks.” Thereafter, a woman had the right to have an abortion.

In a January 13, 1984 proclamation, President Ronald Reagan designated January 22, 1984 as the first **National Sanctity of Human Life Day**, chosen to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade*. Reagan issued the proclamation annually thereafter, designating Sanctity of Human Life Day to be the **third Sunday in January**, the closest Sunday to the original January 22 date. George H. W. Bush continued the annual proclamation throughout his presidency. Bill Clinton discontinued the practice throughout his eight years, but George W. Bush resumed the proclamation and did so every year of his presidency. Barack Obama discontinued the practice, but issued his own proclamation declaring June “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month.”

On January 3, 2012, in 113th Congress, H.R. 23 was introduced and has now been assigned to a committee. Paul Broun of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.<sup>2</sup>

A BILL, To provide that human life shall be deemed to begin with fertilization. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,



<sup>1</sup> First argued on Dec. 13, 1971; reargued on Oct. 11, 1972; decided on Jan. 22, 1973.

<sup>2</sup> Other representatives joining Broun were Franks (AZ), Palazzo, Huelskamp, Rogers (KY), Terry, Carter, Westmoreland, Farenthold, Jones, Roe (TN), Gibbs, Gingrey (GA), Roby, Pearce, Ryan (WI), and Conaway and Fleming. Similar acts have been introduced H.R. 4157 (110th) 2007-09; H.R. 227 (111th) 2009-11; and H.R. 212 (112th) 2011-13.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Sanctity of Human Life Act”.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION. In the exercise of the powers of the Congress, including Congress’ power under article I, section 8 of the Constitution, to make necessary and proper laws, and Congress’ power under section 5 of the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States—(1) the Congress declares that—(A) the right to life guaranteed by the Constitution is vested in each human being, and is the paramount and most fundamental right of a person; and (B) the life of each human being begins with fertilization, cloning, or its functional equivalent, irrespective of sex, health, function or disability, defect, stage of biological development, or condition of dependency, at which time every human being shall have all the legal and constitutional attributes and privileges of personhood; and (2) the Congress affirms that the Congress, each State, the District of Columbia, and all United States territories have the authority to protect the lives of all human beings residing in its respective jurisdictions.



SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Act: (1) FERTILIZATION.—The term “fertilization” means the process of a human spermatozoan penetrating the cell membrane of a human oocyte to create a human zygote, a one-celled human embryo, which is a new unique human being. (2) CLONING.—The term “cloning” means the process called somatic cell nuclear transfer, that combines an enucleated egg and the nucleus of a somatic cell to make a human embryo. (3) HUMAN; HUMAN BEING.—The terms “human” and “human being” include each and every member of the species homo sapiens at all stages of life, beginning with the earliest stage of development, created by the process of fertilization, cloning, or its functional equivalent.<sup>3</sup>

Now then, at [www.GovTrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr23](http://www.GovTrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr23) the bill had 47 “likes” as of last night. Perhaps you’d like to “like” it too ☺.

On Sunday morning, January 20, Hillister Baptist Church Pastor Dr. Clark Mahoney said about 53,000,000+ babies have been aborted since *Roe v. Wade*, which is about 50 times the number of all the American soldiers slain in all of the battles the U.S. has engaged in since 1776! Preaching on Psalm 139:13-16, noting how God has a purpose and plan for us, indeed, “Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.”

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## News

**The Bible – new series.** Houston Chronicle’s Diane Cowen reported on January 20, 2013, “Roma Downey and Mark Burnett's epic TV series ‘The Bible’ won’t appear on the History Channel until March, but the Hollywood power couple is busy touring churches to promote their 10-hour docudrama,” stopping at this weekend at Lakewood Church.”<sup>4</sup> The couple consulted pastors Joel and Victoria Osteen and others in the making of the film.

**Evil has its Day.** On December 14, 2012, Adam Lanza fatally shot twenty children and six adult staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, then shot himself. Before driving to the school, he shot and killed his mother. The incident was the second-deadliest school shooting in United States history, after the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre where student senior Seung-Hui Cho shot and killed 32 people and wounded 17 others in two attacks, two hours apart, before committing suicide. Sandy Hook also was the second-deadliest mass murder at an American elementary school, after the 1927 Bath School bombings in Michigan, where Andrew Kehoe on May 18, 1927, killed 38 elementary school children and six adults, and injured at least 58 other people. Kehoe first killed his wife, fire-bombed his farm and set off a major explosion in the Bath School, before committing suicide by detonating a final explosion in his truck.

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<sup>3</sup> See text as written here: [www.GPO.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr23ih/pdf/BILLS-113hr23ih.pdf](http://www.GPO.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr23ih/pdf/BILLS-113hr23ih.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> [www.Chron.com/life/article/Lakewood-gets-peek-at-10-hour-Bible-movie-4209642.php](http://www.Chron.com/life/article/Lakewood-gets-peek-at-10-hour-Bible-movie-4209642.php).