

Arkansans join hundreds of thousands of people at Washington March for Life

By Little Rock Evangelical Examiner, Mary Larmoyeux



Hundreds of thousands of pro-life supporters descended on Washington on Jan. 22 for the 37th March for Life. They came on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion. Among those in the crowd were religious leaders, members of Congress and 56 Arkansans.

The Arkansans had traveled 19 hours on a bus, chartered by Arkansas Right to Life, to

attend the annual event. They ranged in age from 12 years to 70-plus and came from across the state.

Like the Arkansas group, the National Mall crowd represented people of diverse ages, races, and faiths. Despite their many differences they were united on one issue: the sanctity of human life.

"We now live in a majority prolife country," said Senator [Sam Brownback](#) (Kansas) to those gathered at the National Mall. "And you are the reason for it." He said that pro-life Americans had changed hearts by persuading people to live for a culture of life. "... I am more convinced than ever," he said, "that we are going to win the cause of life. We have to win it. The movement for life will not be silent and it will not be still."

March for Life organizer Nellie Gray told the press that the numbers this year far exceeded those at last year's march which were estimated at more than 300,000.



Ken Hiegel, one of the founders of Arkansas Right to Life, was at Friday's march. Like Gray, he was impressed by the sheer numbers of people. When he marched near the Supreme Court, he was separated from the Arkansas delegation. "I must have walked nine blocks against the crowd," he says, "and the people kept coming by the tens of thousands."

Katie Johnson, who traveled with Hiegel and others from Arkansas, celebrated her 20th birthday heading to Washington. "I don't need to be worrying about my birthday," she says, "I need to be worried about the millions of people who have been aborted and be a voice for them." Johnson says that college students care about children who are being aborted. "It

is wrong, and it needs to change."

Arkansas Right to Life Executive Director Rose Mimms says that she was very encouraged as she walked among the vast numbers of young people at the March for Life. She described them as passionate and enthusiastic.

"It is wonderful to march for a cause," Mimms says. "... but every day we have to go out into our communities one on one and speak the message of life."

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