



NEWS & NOTES

■ On Wednesday, the state of Tennessee, through the Tennessee Attorney General's office, joined ten other states in a lawsuit filed over the administration's attempt to redefine "sex" in Title IX to mean the "gender" by which a person subjectively identifies himself or herself. Tennessee Attorney General Herbert Slatery said, "Our office has consistently opposed efforts like this to take away states' rights and exclude the people's representatives from making these decisions..." Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine stated, "There are many questions that, consistent with constitutional guarantees, are best left to the fair-minded, sensible determinations of our local communities. Under our system of government, how schools work to handle locker room questions involving students' gender identity is one such issue... As our state's Attorney General, I don't determine local school policies on

Impact is published for the Christian community with an emphasis on moral, public policy and religious liberty issues. Newsletter archives are posted at: fbconcord.org/impact Please send your comments and requests for email subscriptions to: warmackrj@gmail.com Editor: Bruce Warmack

these issues -- but neither should federal bureaucrats or the President of the United States." FACT, 5/27; FRC, 5/27

■ On May 13, the same week that the Department of Education told schools that must accommodate students' "gender identity," the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) rewrote "sex discrimination" in health care to include "gender identity" under Section 1557 of Obamacare. Doctors, insurers, and hospitals must offer "gender transition" services, including "sex-reassignment" surgery or else have their Medicare and Medicaid funding revoked. There is no religious exemption. In other words, religious hospitals that receive taxpayer dollars via Medicaid or Medicare will be required to perform sex-change operations or get cut off financially. FACT, 5/20; Federalist, 5/23

■ Eighty-two-year-old LGBT activist "Barbara" Satin (born David) was recently appointed to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, which influences grants to religious organizations and churches that operate social programs. Before becoming a "woman" around age 60, Satin was a Catholic Air Force officer with a wife and three children. He is now a leader in the United Church of Christ. FACT, 5/27

■ The New York City Hu-

man Rights Law now requires all employers, including professionals, landlords, and businesses, to use an employee's, tenant's, customer's, or client's preferred name, pronoun and title regardless of the individual's sex assigned at birth, anatomy, gender, medical history, appearance, or the sex indicated on the individual's identification. Employers can be fined up to \$125,000 for violations and up to \$250,000 if they willfully do not call a New York City employee 'ze' or 'hir' if that's the pronoun the person wants to be called by. Covered entities may avoid violations of the law by creating a policy of asking everyone what their preferred gender pronoun is so that no individual is singled out for such questions and by updating their systems to allow all individuals to self-identify their names and genders. They should not limit the options for identification to male and female only. What if some people insist that their title is "Milord," or "Your Holiness" so that they feel "comfortable"? Eugene Volokh in Wash. Post, 5/17

■ On May 16, the U.S. Supreme Court sent a number of cases like those of the Little Sisters of the Poor back to the Circuit Courts on the representation by the parties after oral argument that there might be a way to serve both the government's interest in contraception and the rights of religious objectors to pro-

viding contraception. The Court unanimously vacated the lower court ruling holding that the Little Sisters had to facilitate access to contraceptives and denied that the mandate substantially burdened their religion. The Supreme Court also provided a roadmap for an excellent resolution to the case — by outlining the accommodation it suggested, which the Little Sisters endorsed, and the government reluctantly agreed to. This is the second time a unanimous Supreme Court has turned back the Obama administration's regulatory efforts to restrict religious freedom (*Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. EEOC* was the first), and it represents yet another setback for the administration's contraception/abortifacient mandate. FACT, 5/20; Nat. Review, 5/16

■ On Wednesday, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signed a bill into law that outlaws almost all abortions after a pregnancy reaches 20 weeks, based upon the contention that the unborn child then has all the physical structures necessary to experience pain and upon higher medical risks and threats to a women's health that occur when abortions are performed later in a pregnancy. Twenty-week abortion bans have been enacted in 17 states (not Tennessee). Abortion advocates have not challenged these laws, since an unfavorable ruling from a

more conservative appeals court could force the Supreme Court's hand, and the ruling might not necessarily be favorable to "reproductive rights." The Weekly, 5/27

■ Despite being staunchly pro-life, Gov. Mary Fallin of Oklahoma vetoed a bill that aims to make abortion a felony punishable by time in prison, saying it was too vague and would not hold up to being challenged in court. Christian Headlines, 5/23

■ U.S. District Judge Julie Robinson ruled that the Kansas' proof-of-citizenship requirements violate a provision in the National Voter Registration Act that requires only "minimal information" to determine a voter's eligibility. She ordered Kansas to register thousands of voters whose paperwork is on hold because they did not comply with the requirement, even if it might dilute the value of citizens' votes. Meanwhile, another federal judge in Tennessee, Kevin Sharp, ruled that voters must vote for governor in order to vote on Amendment 1 in order to keep votes from being diluted. AP, 5/18; FACT, 5/20

■ Planned Parenthood attorney Josh Schaffer admitted under oath that the Texas' Harris County District Attorney's office broke the law by sharing evidence against undercover journalist David Daleiden leading up to the grand jury hearings against him. The evidence was shared even after the Texas Attorney General's office had forbidden them from doing so, according to an attorney involved in the case. After Daleiden's Center for Medical Progress released a series of undercover videos last year showing evidence that Planned Parenthood routinely received compensation in exchange for organs harvested from aborted babies, Harris County District Attorney's office sought to indict the pro-life activists. In January, Daleiden and one of his associates were indicted by a grand jury for purchasing and selling organs. The DA's office brought no charges against the nation's largest abortion provider, whose employees were caught on video haggling over the price of organs on multiple occasions. Federalist, 5/25

Patriotism consists not in waving the flag, but in striving that our country shall be righteous as well as strong."

— JAMES BRYCE (1838-1922)

Bryce was the British Ambassador to the United States and wrote *The American Commonwealth* a well-known historical classic of 1888, in which he painstakingly reproduced the American travels of Alexis de Tocqueville in the 1830s.

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it." — MARK TWAIN

■ At their recent General Conference, United Methodist delegates voted 445-310 to repeal the denomination's 40-year-old official resolution supporting *Roe v. Wade* and to withdraw from the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) that the Methodist Church co-founded. The Conference also adopted a resolution decrying sex-selective abortion while describing abortion as "violent" and criticizing those done for "trivial reasons." Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, praised UMC's new pro-life stance: "We should give thanks for this moment and continue to pray that the church of Jesus Christ would be a stalwart advocate for life and human dignity." The church also voted to cut ties between its missions agency and the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, which some consider anti-Israel. No decision was made on same-sex marriage. FACT, 5/27; Christianity Today, 5/20

■ Despite the school administration's decision to follow an order from Freedom From Religion Foundation to drop the Lord's Prayer from

the graduation ceremony, students at East Liverpool High School in Ohio chose to sing the Lord's Prayer anyway, a tradition the school has participated in for 70 years. The school board president said they dropped the prayer from the program, explaining, "It was a decision made because we don't have a lot of money and we'd rather hire teachers than pay lawyers." But this year's graduates weren't backing down quite as easily. Valedictorian Jonathan Montgomery took the stage and led the entire class of graduates in reciting the Lord's Prayer. FACT, 5/27; WTOV, 5/22

■ For the first time in more than 130 years, Americans ages 18-34 are more likely to live with their parents than in any other living situation, according to a new analysis by the Pew Research Center. In that age group, 32.1 percent of people live in their parents' house, while 31.6 live with a spouse or partner in their own homes and 14 percent live alone, as single parents or in a home with roommates or renters. The rest live with another family member, a nonfamily member or in group-living situations such as a college dorm

or prison. Less educated young adults are also more likely to live with their parents than are their college-educated counterparts — no surprise, Pew notes, given the financial prospects in today's economy. Live-at-home 18- to 34-year-olds are even more likely in Eastern and Southern Europe. Pew, 5/24

■ Citing improvements in the fight against AIDS and malaria, the life expectancy of Africans has risen 9.4 years between 2000 and 2015. With as many as six African nations possibly getting rid of the disease by 2020 and malaria mortality rates falling by 66% across all age groups, the continent is on course to eliminate the disease faster than expected. Quartz Africa, 5/24

■ Knox Thames, the U.S. Department of State's Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East said on Monday that as a result of Islamic terrorist groups such as ISIS, the "door for Christians in Iraq is closing" and the window of time to prevent their eradication is narrowing. Thames also highlighted the declaration of genocide of Christians and other minorities in Iraq and Syria. As result of heavy immigration, mostly from the Philippines and India, religious minorities are growing rapidly. For the first time, a non-Abrahamic religion, Hinduism, is entering the Gulf, and the strong Filipino presence represents a second wave of Christianity. Crux, 5/26

Reviving Memorial Day

by Eric Metaxas

So, how is your Memorial Day shaping up? Heading to the pool or the beach? Having friends over for a barbecue? Or maybe catching that car sale?

Yep, Memorial Day is almost here: the semi-official start of summer with a three-day weekend thrown in. So much to do. In fact, if you go to Google and type in "Memorial Day what to do," you'll get all kinds of activities in your area: food and film fests, music concerts, baseball games.

And you might, just might, learn how you can honor America's war dead. I say might, because Memorial Day has morphed—for the most part—from a day of remembrance to, as one city magazine put it, a "beloved three-day weekend [to] get a taste of all of the exciting outdoor events as . . . summer officially kicks into gear."

Now, there's nothing wrong with relaxing with friends and families and celebrating the arrival of summer. But I want to challenge you and your family to find ways to pay homage to those who have given their lives for the sake of our country and our freedoms. And I have some suggestions for you.

But first, a little context. Since the Revolutionary War, more than 1.3 million Americans have died during our nation's armed conflicts. More than half of those were casualties on both sides of the Civil War. If you can imagine, more than two percent of the American population perished during that savage conflict—that would be like 7.7 million Americans dying today.

It was after that great conflagration that Americans, primarily in the northern states, chose a day to honor the war dead: May 30th, 1868, was the first Decoration Day, as it was called because citizens were asked to decorate the graves of the fallen. After World War I, the day became a time for remembering all war dead, not just those of the Civil War. It wasn't until 1968 that Congress moved the date from May 30 to the last Monday in May. And in 1971, Memorial Day officially became a federal holiday.

HOW WILL YOU HONOR THE FALLEN?

So, what can we do to remember and show our gratitude?

First, fly the flag. At home and in your town. You might want to check over at your local town hall and ask if the flag will be displayed properly on Monday: Flown at half-mast until noon. As the USMemorialDay.org website puts it, "The half-staff position remembers the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in service of their country. At noon, their memory is raised by the living, who resolve not to let their sacrifice be in vain, but to rise up in their stead and continue the fight for liberty and justice for all."

Second, attend your local Memorial Day parade. Don't be shy: Don your patriotic gear and stand with your fellow citizens.

Third, visit a national cemetery and decorate graves. Or simply walk the grounds quietly and pray.

Fourth, you might attend a memorial service. Many Veterans of Foreign War posts hold special services to honor the dead.

Fifth, take your children to a military museum or battlefield. Teach them about the sacrifices made by so many. Instill in them a respect for the men and women who to this day volunteer to serve their country in the armed forces—knowing they may be called on to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Sixth, observe the National Moment of Remembrance at 3:00PM on Monday. Since 2000, Americans have been asked to "voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of Remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to Taps."

Finally, consider donating to organizations that help our nation's veterans and families. And get your church to reach out to military families in your area.

So yes. Enjoy your long weekend. But find a way to honor those who, through their sacrifice, made this weekend possible.

ENTERTAINMENT NOTES

★★NEW MOVIES

Quality Moral Age

<i>Alice Through the Looking Glass</i>	PG	+4	-1	10+
<i>The Angry Birds Movie</i>	PG	+3	-1	10+
<i>X-Men: Apocalypse</i>	PG-13	+4	-2	T/A
<i>The Nice Guys</i>	R	+3	-3	OT/A
<i>Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising</i>	R	+2	-4	OT/A

A- Adult, T-Teen, OT- Older Teen

Film "Quality" is an estimate (+1 to +4) of appeal for the intended audience or age group. "Moral" rating ranges from extremely objectionable (-4) to very good (+4). movieguide.org