

Georgia insight

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*"She hath done what she could."
Mark 14:8a*

Another Christmas With Mama

Oops! My rose-colored glasses crashed to the floor during mama's 25-day hospital stay, when I learned two critical facts. Fact One: today's hospitals don't focus on patient needs, but on getting them out of there. Fact Two is even more important and very scary. If a pushy case-worker had had her way, mama would've been sent packing to a hospice on November 25th to be "kept comfortable", *i.e.*, drugged until she died. Her life would've been cut unnaturally short and we would've been deprived of mama sooner than necessary. But the Lord intervened for us and for mama and Christmas will be much happier than it could've been.

Mama's Hospital Experience

On November 2nd mama's number one son-in-law took her two-year-old Buick to the dealer to be winterized. She bought it brand new when she was only 89 years old. So, it's, truly, a car a little old lady drove only to church and the grocery store, and, occasionally, on a 60-mile trip to see her two sisters – one older and one slightly younger. Mama's an independent soul who has lived alone in her own home, has no help except a yard-man and did very well, thank you.

While son-in-law spent his morning getting the Buick serviced, mama and I had a good time shopping. When I said, "Mama, you seem to have a little congestion," she said, "Oh, it's my sinuses. I'm taking coricidin for it." That was that and all three of us went to lunch at Cap'n D's and enjoyed every bite. But, two weeks and one day later, mama called us girls to take her to the doctor, who was so busy he referred her to the emergency room. They took x-rays, prescribed medications, sent her home and told her to visit her own doctor the next morning. He promptly had her admitted to the hospital for pneumonia. That was November 18th.

There's still some question whether she had pneumonia, because x-rays uncovered a mass in her lung. Her primary doctor called in a lung specialist, who consulted with a cancer specialist who diagnosed it as adeno carcinoma that's so aggressive mama was told she has only two to three months to live. Immediately, doctors began throwing around the word hospice, hospice.

By the end of that first week, the hospital cae-worker asked us for a discharge plan. There we were in the throes of despair, with a very sick mama expected to live only two or three months, and a hospital employee wanted us to come up with a discharge plan. Thankfully, we had no discharge plan that day or for many more days because mama fooled them all.

She rebounded. She's stronger, is sharp as a tack and her first walk down the hall using her speedy walker with wheels was to the nurses' station and back. She *really* made tracks and *now*, mama does not meet Medicare's criteria for hospice. She's not in pain, is not on drugs and is not dying . . . right now, anyway. Her next stop was a nursing home because, strong-willed soul that she is, mama refused to live with any of her four daughters. She'll be 92 on Ground Hog Day and she's still giving the orders.

ERA, Killed and Buried in 1982, Getting CPR in Georgia

ERA Language of 1972

“Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

“Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

“Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”

Drastic Cultural Changes under ERA

❖ **ERA, if added to U.S. Constitution, would legalize homosexual marriage nationwide.**

Sources: Professor Paul Freund, Harvard Law School, Senate Judiciary Committee Testimony, 1970

Professors S.T. Perkins and A. J. Silverstein, *Yale Law Journal*, January 1973

A Lawyer Looks at the ERA by Rex E. Lee, United States Assistant Attorney General, 1981

Georgia: Under ERA, equal rights to marry means a woman could marry a woman if a man could marry a woman and a man could marry a man if a woman could marry a man. ERA would nullify contradictory definitions of marriage in state constitutions and laws, including Georgia’s 2004 constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union between a man and a woman, although voters passed it by a three-to-one margin. If ERA were added to the *Constitution of the U.S.*, homosexual marriage would be a federally enforced national constitutional right.

❖ **ERA requires women to be drafted and sent into combat if the draft is reinstated.**

“A woman will register for the draft at the age of 18, as a man now does [if the draft is revived]. ...[A]ll standards applied through (intelligence tests and physical examinations) will have to be neutral as between the sexes. ...Distinctions between single and married women who become pregnant will be permissible only if the same distinction is drawn between single and married men who father children. Thus, if unmarried women are discharged for pregnancy, men shown to be fathers of children born out of wedlock would also be discharged.”

Quotation Source: *Yale Law Journal*, April 1971

Also: Chicago Law School Professor Kurland, 1970 & Senator Sam Ervin, *Congressional Record*, 3-22-72

❖ **ERA eliminates all rights to privacy based on differences between the sexes.**

Since ERA abolishes all legal distinctions between men and women, there could be no publicly imposed privacy based on sexual differences. Separate facilities based on sex would be outlawed in the military, prisons, reform schools, psychiatric wards, hospitals, dormitories, restrooms or other similar public institutions. Police searches involving clothing removal would be done by either sex, regardless of the sex of the one searched.

Sources: Professor Paul Freund, Harvard Law School, 1970

Professor Phil Kurland, Chicago Law School 1970 & *Congressional Record*, March 22, 1972

Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., North Carolina, *Congressional Record*, March 22, 1972

❖ **ERA would require identical insurance rates for men and women.**

Since women statistically live longer than men, life insurance rates are lower for women.

Young men pay more for automobile insurance because they have a higher percentage of automobile accidents than young women. But ERA requires both sexes to pay the same.

Michigan insurance rates for young women and young couples increased up to 159 percent.

Source: Michigan Essential Insurance Act, January 1, 1981 (Prompted by Michigan’s State ERA)

❖ **Protective labor legislation for women and children would be voided.**

Source: State of Washington action after passage of State ERA

Of 35 States Ratifying the 1972 ERA, 5 Rescinded

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia did *not* ratify the ERA during the decade from 1972 'til 1982, thereby saving the country from grave social upheaval. All 15 non-ratifying states are in the cross hairs of activists who would rather see the culture crumble than admit that women and men are intrinsically different. Among the 15 non-ratifying states, Georgia was unique. Clear-thinking Georgia legislators rejected ERA while resisting pressure from its pro-ERA Governor Jimmy Carter and, then, U.S. President Carter.

Three-State Strategy Activated

Never-say-die radicals who want everyone to believe there's no difference between men and women have concocted the current strategy to add three more states to the 35 that ratified in the ten-year time limit. For that to happen, two things must occur. The (a) ratification period must be adjudged still open and (b) the rescissions of five of the 35 states must be invalidated.

Current Congressional Action: March 15, 2005 U.S. House of Representatives Congressman Robert E. Andrews introduced his Three State Resolution (HRes 155) that states:

“Requiring the House of Representatives to take any legislative action necessary to verify the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment as part of the Constitution, when the legislatures of an *additional three States ratify* the Equal Rights Amendment.”

Also on March 15, 2005, U.S. House of Representatives member Carolyn Maloney introduced The Start Over Resolutions (HJRes 37 and SJRes 7) proposing to amend the U.S. Constitution with the same 1972 ERA language as follows:

ERA Language of 2005

“Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

“Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

“Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”

Arkansas: On April 5, 2005, by a vote of 16 to 15 with 4 not voting, the Arkansas legislature defeated ERA. Eighteen votes were needed for ratification. Since Arkansas legislators meet only every two years, 2007 will be the earliest ERA could be reconsidered there.

Atlanta, Georgia was the site of the *June 3-5, 2005* national ERA conference convened by the Atlanta-based 4ERA organization to discuss a national strategy for ratifying the ERA. Campaigns for ratification have begun in Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, Nevada, Alabama and Mississippi.

In addition to the June meeting, **Georgia** was among five states that held Women's Equality Day Events in August. The ceremony began with the reading of the governor's proclamation declaring the meeting date of *August 26th* as Women's Equality Day in Georgia. Speakers included Dr. Elizabeth Hughes, *New Georgia Encyclopedia* Associate Editor; Valerie Betz, Georgia Federation of *Republican Women* President; Heidi Becker, Georgia Federation of *Democratic Women* President; Idella Moore, 4ERA Founder; Vernell Mosley, Atlanta Commission on Women Chairman and Nellie Duke, Georgia Commission on Women Head.

More Good Left-Over Bills from 2005 Need to Pass in 2006

Ad Valorem Taxes Frozen at Original Level

H.R. 85 prevents the forcing of families off their property due to inflated tax assessments. It requires property to be appraised for ad valorem taxation at the original cost to the owner, plus the cost of any new construction, additions or improvements requiring building permits. It was introduced by Representative Alan Powell on January 31st and sent to the House Ways and Means Committee, where it remains for action in 2006.

H.R. 85 is a proposed constitutional amendment that, if passed by the General Assembly, would be on the November 2006 General Election ballot for voters to decide. This would be a boon to owners whose property assessments have soared and taxes are killing them.

ACTION-Support. Contact House Ways and Means Committee Representatives O'Neal, Ch., 404 656-5103; Roger Williams, V-Ch., 656-3904, wroger@optilink.us; Martin Scott, Sec., 656-0254, mscott@legis.state.ga.us.

Protects Pharmacists That Object to Filling Prescriptions for Abortion Pills

S.B. 123 provides that pharmacists presenting employers with a written objection to abortion won't be required to fill prescriptions for emergency contraceptive drugs that induce and cause abortions. The objection would remain in effect until the individual personally revoked it or terminated employment with the facility with which it was filed. It passed the Senate Health & Human Services Committee in 2005 and went into Rules where it remained until the end of the session. In 2006, it will return to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee.

ACTION-Support. Contact Health & Human Services Committee Senators Don Thomas, Ch., 404 656-6436, dthomas@legis.sate.ga.us; Unterman, V-Ch., 463-1368, reneeu@mindspring.com; Goggans, Sec., 463-5263, drgg@alltel.net.

Background Checks for School Personnel

H.B. 215 requires local school boards to adopt a code of ethics and requires background checks to be requested within ten working days of hiring school personnel on annual contract.

Applicants may work under provisional contracts for 200 days, but this doesn't specify what happens to new-hires with negative background reports. Since July 1, 2000, fingerprints and criminal record checks have been required, but there's been no time limit set for requesting or getting them. Representative Buckner introduced it January 31st and it was assigned to Representative Maxwell's Academic/Support Subcommittee that did not act on it.

ACTION-Support. Contact House Education Academic/Support Subcommittee Representatives Maxwell, Ch., 656-3904, hmaxwell@legis.state.ga.us; Dickson, V-Ch./Sec., 656-0202.

Supports English as the Official Language of the U.S.

H.R. 29 asks Congress to designate English as the official language of the U.S. Although English has always been our common language and this seems totally unnecessary, every time such a bill is introduced, it's killed. This legislation would not become a law but, simply, "urges the U.S. Congress to enact legislation declaring English as the official language of the government of the U.S." After being introduced by Representative Amos Amerson, it was assigned to the Interstate Cooperation Committee that passed it into House Rules. It's back in the Interstate Cooperation Committee for action in the 2006 session.

H.R. 29: ACTION-Support. Contact House Interstate Cooperation Committee Representatives Forster, Ch., 404 656-3947, rforster@legis.state.ga.us; Davis, V-Ch., 656-0254, sdavis@legis.state.ga.us; Manning, Sec., 656-7857, judymanning@bellsouth.net.

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