A Women’s Right to Know and Patient Safety Should Take Precedence over Planned Parenthood Profits

Genevieve Marnon, Legislative Director, Right to Life of Michigan

The so-called Reproductive Health Act (RHA) was recently introduced in the state legislature. This 17-bill package does nothing to promote the health of women, and everything to promote the profits of the abortion industry. If passed and signed into law, these dangerous bills will strip basic health and safety standards from abortion clinics and will deprive women of the medical information necessary to make an informed decision about whether or not to seek an abortion.

The bills include a repeal of the 2013 Omnibus Law which required surgical abortion clinics to be licensed and inspected. Prior to the passage of this law, the abortion industry in Michigan was left to regulate itself, which resulted in the horrific conditions found in the Muskegon abortion clinic run by the infamous Dr. Robert Alexander. Several other clinics were so unsafe and unsanitary that they could not meet the basic clinic standards set by the Department of Health and Human Services and had to close their doors. No industry is left to regulate itself, but 10 years after the passage of the prolife omnibus law, pro-abortion lawmakers are seeking to return Michigan to a state of unregulated, unrestricted, abortion on demand with unlicensed and uninspected abortion clinics.

The package of bills would also repeal the informed consent for abortion law which includes a 24-hour waiting period. Informed consent is the standard of care for any medical procedure and should be provided to all women seeking an abortion. Medical ethics demands that prior to any elective medical or surgical procedure, patients are given information about the procedure, alternatives to the intervention, and any risks involved. We were told repeatedly during the campaign to pass Prop 3 that it would simply #Restore Roe, yet the informed consent law was in place under Roe and enforced by every administration regardless of political party. In addition, the screening for coerced abortion would be dropped leaving women vulnerable to forced abortion without detection.

Nothing in the constitutional amendment mandates that taxpayers fund abortion. But, the abortion industry and their allies in the legislature are attempting to use Prop 3 as a directive to repeal laws which protect prolife individuals from being compelled to finance abortion with their tax dollars and insurance premiums. No other Constitutional right forces others to pay for the exercise of that right. Taxpayers are not forced to subsidize the second amendment or pay for churches, yet the abortion industry wants a different set of rules for themselves and expects those who object to abortion to finance it for everyone.

Pro-abortion lawmakers introduced similar versions of the RHA in 2019 and again in 2021. However, this time around, they are claiming the voters of Michigan put a mandate on them to “finish the job” that was begun under Prop 3. If that were true, then what was the excuse for introducing these same repeals in 2019 and 2021? Many of the proposed repeals are on laws which in no way limit abortion. Laws such as abortion reporting, the reporting of abortion complications, or the humane disposal of fetal remains, are duties of abortion providers, not women seeking abortions. Yet, the abortion industry is using Prop 3 as an excuse to do what they’ve been attempting to do for some time, which is to eliminate any and all obstacles to increasing abortion and their bottom line.

Previous versions of the RHA also contained a repeal of the parental rights restoration act aka parental consent. Due to the pressure from parents who object to having their parental rights infringed, pro-abortion politicians have backed off on eliminating parental rights as it regards their minor daughter’s abortion decision. They have, however, pledged to repeal the law just as soon as they feel they can do so without political consequences. Parents need to stay vigilant.

Jeopardizing women’s safety for the abortion industry’s bottom line is the goal of the RHA. The proposed removal of common-sense regulations serves the interests of the abortion industry, not women seeking abortions. Speed limit and seatbelt laws are not barriers to driving—they are protections for drivers. Current abortion regulations are not barriers to abortion—they are protections for women and girls, and we urge Michigan legislators to keep these long-standing, basic protections in place.

You're Invited!

Assisted Suicide is Not the Answer: Killing is Not Caring

Saturday, October 21, 2023
9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Courtyard Marriott
11 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

More info and register at:
bettercaremi.org/events
The Path to Making a Choice for Life

Barbara Listing, President, Right to Life of Michigan

Watching the nightly news or reading the morning paper can be disheartening for those of us who value the preciousness of each and every unique human being. Sometimes the stories cry out the words of one of our American patriots—these are the times that try men’s souls—and women too!

This year, we especially are witnessing a rendering apart of protections for the innocent unborn child and also for the woman facing a perceived unwanted pregnancy.

Our present Governor and her allies in the state legislature and in the media have become abortion obsessed. Expanding abortion is their main agenda without regard even for the health and safety of women.

Their most recent efforts call for wiping out the existing law which regulates the safety requirements for those free standing clinics which provide abortions. Abortionists and the clinic owners will have free rein over the cleanliness and safety of their facilities.

The Governor’s chief allies, Planned Parenthood and the ACLU, are determined to increase the number of abortions while disregarding sensible, long-established medical protocols. They are calling for the elimination of informed consent for this surgery; they want speedy abortions not allowing a 24-hour waiting period to contemplate this irreversible life changing decision. Plus, they want the taxpayers to pick up the bill for someone else’s abortion.

While the actions of our Governor and the majority party in the state legislature are disheartening, the words of Anne Frank in her Diary of a Young Girl, gives us solace:

“He who has courage and faith will never perish in misery.”

The prolife movement must continue to speak the truth about abortion while trying to bring hope to the women facing an unwanted pregnancy.

While we live in a state that fully allows the abortion choice, we are called to provide the paths to a different choice: a choice for Life.

A ray of sunshine and hope can be found in the most recent abortion report from our Michigan Department of Health. The 2022 statistics show a decline in Michigan abortions which 1,050 fewer women making the abortion choice. This decline came in the year when the airwaves were full of pro-abortion rhetoric. Social media was jammed with abortion rights propaganda. Despite the full press of the abortion proponents, women courageously made a choice for life for their unborn children. They had faith in themselves to have the strength to give their child a chance for Life.

May we, with resolve and determination, continue on our journey to speak the truth about the need to restore legal protection for the least member of our human family, the unborn baby. May we extend our hands and resources to help women make the choice for life.

Benefit for Life

27th Annual Charity Reception

November 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Troy, Michigan

Visit RTL.org for more information and to register online.

Right to Life of Michigan News

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PUBLISHER: Barbara Listing EDITOR: Anna Pluymert

Right to Life of Michigan is a non-sectarian, non-partisan organization of prolife groups in the state of Michigan, committed to articulating and protecting the right to life of defenseless human beings, born and unborn.

This commitment is derived from a belief that each human being, from the time of fertilization to natural death, has an immeasurable dignity and inalienable right to life. The RLM News is a publication distributed to members and supporters of Right to Life of Michigan and its affiliate groups.

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Human—From Conception Tee

Lightweight baby blue ANVIL® soft 100% preshrunk cotton tee with “Human” lettering on the front and “From Conception” on the back.

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Use promo code NEWS23 at checkout for 15% off your total order!
Capital City Baby Shower

Anna Pluymert,
Director of Communication/Education,
Right to Life of Michigan

On August 14, Right to Life of Michigan (RLM) and Faith Fellowship Baptist Church welcomed 76 women and their families to Sharp Park in Lansing to celebrate motherhood with a community baby shower.

This one-of-a-kind event provided much-needed items, such as car seats, baby swings, strollers, clothing and more, to expectant mothers and their families. Thank you to the local businesses and organizations that went above and beyond to make our mothers feel special. Families that attended got the chance to enjoy cotton candy, a photo booth, a beautiful balloon arch for a picture backdrop and a wonderful lunch, all thanks to our vendors. We would also like to give a special thanks to Faith Fellowship Baptist Church for partnering with us on this event. Thank you also to all pregnancy resource centers, volunteers, local stores and restaurants, and local agencies that donated to this baby shower.

With the help of various churches and organizations, we were able to raffle off 55 big-ticket items, such as strollers and car seats, etc., and 50 “blessing bags” which included baby formula, bottles, onesies, etc., to those who attended.

Not only were mothers able to make community connections with other families, pregnancy resource centers, and organizations like Head Start, but there was also plenty for the kids with face painting and free children’s books.

“We are honored to be able to serve Lansing families through this special event. Our goal is to help ready families for the birth of a child and build support across the community. We hope that the support from this baby shower will inspire the families to stay involved and support each other,” stated Jasmine Fountain, RLM Multicultural Outreach Support Staff. “Each and every participant, volunteer, and donor are motivated by the desire to come alongside the families represented and further empower them to care for each other.”

“God is the creator of life, and He has given believers the responsibility to support life. This Capital City Baby Shower is one way we can show our support for life. I encourage all believers to step forward and show the Love of Christ,” added Pastor Stan Parker, Faith Fellowship Baptist Church.

The Capital City Baby shower made the bold proclamation that there is hope and there is help for any woman facing an unexpected pregnancy. We showed the Lansing community that true women’s empowerment celebrates the life in her womb and provides her with the community, resources and love she needs for it to thrive. Because of the success of this event, we are currently in the midst of planning two more showers—the Motor City Baby Shower, scheduled for May 18th, 2024 and the second Capital City Baby Shower, scheduled for August 17, 2024. If you are interested in partnering with us in any way, please let us know.

Thank you for all you contributed to make this event successful.
Affiliate Spotlight

Fair display by Midland Right to Life

Grand Traverse Area Right to Life at the Northwestern MI Fair

Flat River Right to Life at the Belding Labor Day Parade

Tri Cities Right to Life at Unity Christian Music Festival
FDA Abortion Pill Status

By Genevieve Marnon, Legislative Director, Right to Life of Michigan

The status of the abortion pill (mifepristone) is still in flux as the case Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. The Food and Drug Administration case awaits a decision from the Supreme Court as to whether they will take an appeal which was recently filed by the Biden Administration.

For the moment, the pill remains in use and available via telemedicine up to 10 weeks gestation. The ruling from the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in August determined that the changes the FDA made to the dispensing of the abortion pill in 2016 and 2021 were done unlawfully and therefore, the restrictions that were originally put in place in 2000, including in-person distribution and limited to 7 weeks gestation, should be reinstated. However, the judges suspended their own order pending a decision from the Supreme Court thus leaving abortion pills being distributed through the mail and in pharmacies for pregnancies up to 10 weeks gestation.

So, what does this mean, and why does the FDA’s approval process even matter? To understand the legal case, it’s best to look at the history of the abortion pill.

In 1988, France became the first nation to license the drug mifepristone for the purposes of causing an abortion. Roussel Uclaf, the manufacture of the abortion pill (thus the RU in RU-486) and its German parent company, Hoechst AG, were against marketing the abortion pill in the U.S. The length of the clinical trials necessary for FDA approval seemed overly burdensome to them.

The Clinton administration quickly began leveraging unheard of and inappropriate pressure on Roussel Uclaf to release the patent to mifepristone to a U.S. company. On his second day in office President Clinton directed the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to create initiatives that would “promote the testing, licensing, and manufacturing of RU-486 or other antiprogestins in the United States.” This led to an uptick in political and social pressure from both the FDA and Congress aimed at Roussel Uclaf to give the U.S. the patent rights for the abortion pill. Articles were written about the need for the abortion pill in America, and threats of lawsuits against Roussel were put forward to put pressure on the company.

After enough pressure was placed on Roussel, the Population Council (created by the Clinton administration) was able to obtain the intellectual-property rights of mifepristone at no cost. Now the U.S. had the ability to begin marketing the pill without any competitors. Then the process of approval from the FDA began.

It quickly became clear (even to the FDA which tried to ram through the approval process) that mifepristone had serious side effects and it could not be proven to be safe. To get around these concerns, the FDA approved mifepristone under a special process called Subpart H which is reserved for drugs designed to treat serious or life-threatening conditions. In order to (improperly and unlawfully) use Subpart H, the FDA had to reclassify pregnancy as a life-threatening condition.

Mifepristone was inappropriately approved in 2000, but in order to address the very real safety concerns for women, the FDA added a REMS or Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy to the distribution of mifepristone for abortion. There are currently about 19,000 FDA approved drugs in the U.S., and only 66 have been deemed dangerous enough to require a REMS. The abortion pill is one of them. The 2000 REMS for mifepristone for abortion included a limit to 7 weeks gestation, in-person dispensing, an ultrasound requirement, and reporting of all adverse side effects to the FDA.

Today’s REMS which was approved by the Biden Administration’s FDA, allows mail order abortion pills up to 10 weeks gestation with no complication reporting.

The 5th Circuit has stayed (blocked) their own ruling, pending an opinion from the Supreme Court, meaning the 2000 REMS are not in effect and no changes have been made to the distribution of the pill. Per the seemingly unlawful 2023 changes to the REMS by the FDA, the abortion pill continues to be shipped through mail after a telemedicine abortion visit.

If the Supreme Court decides not to take the case, the 5th Circuit ruling will go into effect and the 2000 REMS will be reinstated and only in person distribution of the abortion pill up to 7 weeks gestation confirmed by an ultrasound will be allowed. If the Supreme Court does take the case there are any number of ways they could rule including: dismissing the arguments and allowing the 2023 REMS to stand with no changes, agreeing with the 5th Circuit and going back to the 2000 REMS, or even pulling the FDA approval of abortion pill thus removing it from the market completely. While it is impossible to know how a court will rule, there is clear rationale for removal of the abortion pill altogether since mifepristone was never properly approved, but there are other legal considerations at play. Stay tuned; this process will likely take many months to resolve.

For more information on the abortion pill, order the “Abortion Pill: Knowledge is Power” handout on our website RTL.org/apr-order to learn about the dangers, how it works, and what doctors have to say about it.

**Friday, October 27, 2023**

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, Michigan

All are welcome to join us on October 27 to experience Stories of Hope, an honest and life-affirming presentation created to raise awareness and bring hope to churches and other groups. Your dinner reservation supports Right to Life of Michigan’s prolife work in Michigan’s Black community. For more information and to register: Scan the code, visit RTL.org, or call (313) 212-1326.
What You Need to Know about a 15-week Federal Abortion Ban

Anna Pluymert, Director of Communication/Education Right to Life of Michigan

The post-Roe era calls for bold, compassionate leadership on the issue of abortion.

You may have heard some organizations or candidates promote a federal 15-week abortion ban as the path forward. Sadly, a federal 15-week ban offers almost no protection for the unborn, since about 95% of abortions happen in the first 15 weeks of pregnancy.

As a state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), Right to Life of Michigan (RLM) looks to the NRLC on matters of federal legislation.

The NRLC has asserted, and RLM agrees, that:

“As a tool to save lives, a 15-week ban is very, very weak. Using data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and/or the Guttmacher Institute, about 95% of abortions occur by 15 weeks and of the remaining 5% many are for the life of the mother or medical emergency reasons.”

Advocates for life should instead work to build consensus around legal protections which both safeguard women and offer meaningful legal protections for the unborn, as an effective starting point. We can and must offer a compelling case that invites women to make a choice for life, rather than equivocate with policies that offer little to no protection for women and the unborn.

While Proposal 3, which passed on November 8, 2022, created a constitutional right to abortion in Michigan, the path taken at the federal level will impact countless lives across the country and help chart the path forward for the broader cause of life in the days and years ahead.

We can and must do better.

Federal elected officials interested in offering meaningful protections and alternatives for women seeking an abortion and, ultimately, saving the lives of vulnerable children regardless of gestational age, should focus on legislative priorities such as:

- Protecting the rights of parents to be involved in a minor’s decision related to an abortion.
- Ensuring taxpayer dollars are not used for abortion.
- Protecting informed consent and existing “right to know” laws for women seeking an abortion.

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Michigan March for Life

November 8, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

Join us for the Michigan March for Life on November 8, 2023! The Michigan March for Life is an excellent opportunity for advocates for life of all ages and political persuasions from across the state to join with one voice on behalf of the defenseless! A strong showing of support on the first anniversary of the devastating passage of pro-abortion Proposal 3 sends a powerful message to our elected officials, the citizens of our state, and the nation at large. Join us as we peacefully advocate for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death.

Lansing, MI

11:00 a.m. Rally outside the Michigan State Capitol Building, located at 100 N Capitol Ave.
12:00 p.m. Michigan March for Life

Special Guest Speakers

Keynote Speaker: Genecia Davis
Genecia will share her personal story of abortion and her subsequent path to peace.

Additional Speakers:

- Emcee: Chuck Gaidica, former anchor and meteorologist on Channel 4 (WDIV-TV) in Detroit
- Bishop Earl Boyea, Diocese of Lansing
- Barbara Listing, President of Right to Life of Michigan
- Jeannie Mancini, President of National March for Life
- Mildred “Missy” Parker-Miller, Long-time advocate for life, who spent 34 years working in the foster care and adoption system in Detroit
- Dr. Michelle Monticello, OB-GYN, Co-Medical Director and OB-GYN Advisor for Life Choices of Central Michigan
- State Senator Thomas Albert, MI, 18th Senate District
- Representative Jaime Greene, MI, 65th House District
- Pastor Chris Brooks, Woodside Bible Church in Troy

Find more info and RSVP at: RTL.org/events/march
2022 MI Abortion Report: Abortions Decrease, But…

The good news is abortions performed on Michigan residents declined by more than 1,000! Sadly, the number of women traveling to Michigan for abortions increased, meaning Michigan saw a small overall increase. Here are the top three takeaways you should consider.

#1: Out-of-state abortions increase
- Abortions increased from 30,074 to 30,120.
- Abortions on Michigan women decreased from 28,409 to 27,359.
- 9% of abortions performed in Michigan are on women from other states.

Because Michigan has a shrinking population, some assume that abortions are decreasing only because there are fewer women in our state. That’s hopefully not the case. Michigan’s abortion rate declined from 15.1 in 2021 to 14.4 in 2022. That’s the number of women who had abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age in the state. So, about 1 in 70 Michigan women ages 15 to 44 had an abortion last year.

#2: Long-term trends continue
Three long-term trends we’ve seen over the years remain true in Michigan:

- More abortion pills. Back in 2013, there were 5,103 abortions using abortion pills. In 2022, there were 15,606 pill abortions, just more than half of the total.
- Disparate impact. Black abortions declined slightly in 2022, but there remains a wide gap. Hispanic abortions also saw an unprecedented increase, from 796 to 1,122. Because abortion businesses focus so heavily on Black women—especially in Michigan versus other states—they are still 7 times more likely to have an abortion than White women. 62% of abortions on Black women are repeat abortions, meaning the woman has already had at least one abortion in her past.
- Aging demographics. The average age of women seeking abortions continues to rise. In 2013, teens had 3,106 abortions, women in their 20s had 15,243, and women 30 and older had 7,016. In 2022, those numbers were 2,167, 15,336, and 9,660 respectively. Two-thirds of abortions in Michigan are on women older than college-aged.

We’re working to address these three trends. For example, we have a special website for Metro Detroit offering women not just the great resources at pro-life pregnancy help centers, but all manner of social services to encourage them that others will help them make motherhood work.

#3: Worrying increase in greater Lansing area
While most of the state’s abortions happen in high population areas like Metro Detroit, Flint, and Grand Rapids, three counties have seen a large increase in abortions: Ingham, Clinton, and Eaton. In fact, the top three large counties (75,000 or more population) with abortion rate increases since 2013 are these three. Ingham’s abortion rate is up 77%, Eaton 134%, and Clinton a staggering 313% since 2013.

These are not economically depressed or declining counties; all three gained population since the last census.

What can we do?
Right to Life of Michigan will continue focusing resources on areas that need the most help. Even though abortion is becoming more concentrated in women who’ve already graduated from high school or college, education remains a key. More than anything in our struggling state, we need to recover a sense of optimism that we can tackle big problems at their source.

Time Does Not Stand Still

By Barbara Rotary,
Director of Planned Giving,
Right to Life of Michigan

Around this time of year we see nature begin to prepare for the long, cold winter months ahead. The leaves on the trees are changing colors and fall to the ground. The squirrels will keep busy packing away every acorn they see. The migratory birds will begin to fly south towards warmer climates and easier access to food. And we, too, will begin preparing for the coming snow and ice. There’s much to do to get ready.

In anticipation of what’s around the corner tomorrow, most of us feel secure in making plans and being prepared. That’s why we buy life insurance, take money out of our paychecks for that retirement 401K, and why we open college fund accounts for our children when they’re born. We all want to be prepared and ready to go when that special time comes.

Many years ago I learned that success is the product of the moment opportunity and preparedness meet. When that time arrives, we’re either ready or we’re not—time does not stand still and wait for us. The clock just keeps ticking and the rest is history, good or bad.

The good news is that you can still begin the process of completing a will or living trust. These documents allow you to direct your hard-earned assets to your family and loved ones, and if you so desire, to causes you believed in and supported during your lifetime. Only 40% of adults have a will or trust prepared. Many are not ready for whatever tomorrow may bring. A successful outcome for their family and the causes they support may be in jeopardy.

You have the opportunity today to take care of your loved ones and prearrange charitable gifts to organizations like Right to Life of Michigan. Let us know how we can be of service to you, your family and your professional advisors.

Information in this article is for the purpose of providing general answers to commonly asked questions. None of the information contained herein is intended as legal advice or legal opinion relative to specific matters, facts, situations or issues. Please contact an attorney for specific legal advice.

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY • CLIP & SEND

☐ Send me information about how to leave a charitable gift to Right to Life of Michigan, or RLM Educational Fund, or the RLM Educational Endowment Fund in my will or living trust.

☐ Please send me an estate planning brochure.

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Right to Life of Michigan • Office of Planned Giving, P.O. Box 901, Grand Rapids, MI 49509

October 2023
Thinking of others, supporting life
You can remember a deceased loved one or honor one of the special people in your life through a tax-deductible memorial or honorary contribution to the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund.

A thoughtful acknowledgment will be sent to the family or person you designate, while the gift amount will remain confidential. Visit RTL.org and click on the “Donate” button. Or, send a check with information about the memorial or honorarium to:

RLM Educational Fund
P.O. Box 901
Grand Rapids, MI 49509

In Memory Of: Given By:

Shirley Able..................................................Barbara Listing
Mark Andersen..................................George (Tom) and Leila Riddinger
Mrs. Dorothy Beachnau.................................Family of Dorothy Beachnau
Mike & Teri Hecksell.................................Mike & Julie Russell
Mary Anne Torres.................................Tom & Joyce Wegener
Ina Blair..................................................Tom & Luane Feldpauschi
Suzanne (Sue) Boorma.................................Sue Cammenga
Susie Buday............................................Edward & Kathy Buday
Rod & Nancy Buikema.................................Sandra Carlson
Mike & Teri Hecksell.................................Mike & Julie Russell
Tom & Joyce Wegener.................................Tom & Joyce Wegener
Mrs. Jeanine Connaughton...............................Val & Becky Geidans
Mr. Thomas Cupisz.....................................Emmet RTL
Mr. Thomas Cupisz.....................................Cynthia Cupisz
John & Donna Denner.................................Thomas DiBianca
Bob Mcfalls.............................................Margaret M Mosier
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S & J Orris.......................................................Anne Roberts
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Dan & Mary Hoffman...................................Lucy Hoffman
Betty Doyle..................................................Craig & Jill Snook
Joan (Witgen-Schaefer-Pung) Epkey...............Daniel Schafer
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Ellie Feldpauschi.......................................Tom & Luane Feldpauschi
Mr. Daniel Foreman.....................................Joe & Renie Vogel
Betty Doyle..................................................Craig & Jill Snook
Irene Hughes.............................................Saginaw RTL

In Honor Of: Given By:

Sr. Maureen Donovan..................................Sue Vandenbroek
(80 years of service)
Helen Emerson.........................................Margaret Thorstein
Dr. Christopher Gorecki (60th Birthday)...........Bob, Kathy, & Mike Davis

Our Grandchildren: Jaxon, Ruth & our unborn grandson..................Richard & Josetta Monette
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Pavlov..................................Barbara & Otto Listing
(50th Wedding Anniversary)

Bob (Robert) Roggenbuck.................................................Marilyn Stacer

Mr. & Mrs. Tony & Jill Snook.................................Tom & Julie Russell
Joan (Witgen-Schaefer-Pung) Epkey...............Daniel Schafer
Mr. Jerry Falkowski......................................Regina Falkowski
Ellie Feldpauschi.......................................Tom & Luane Feldpauschi
Mr. Daniel Foreman.....................................Joe & Renie Vogel
Betty Doyle..................................................Craig & Jill Snook

Barbara Rook..................................................William Rummel
Miss Myrtle Ruse-Obed..................................Barbara & Otto Listing

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