

Influencer Monthly

A publication prepared exclusively for CWA leaders, members, and friends dedicated to impacting the culture for Christ through both prayer and action.



CONTENT

- When Days Were Good 1
- LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:
Is There a Vaccine for
Hostility to Religious
Liberty? 2
- IX UPDATE: The
"Painstaking" Process of
Federal Rulemaking 3
- GAVEL WATCH: Unlawful
Attacks of Supreme Court
Justices Multiple 4
- Praise & Prayer 5
- CWA IN THE NEWS:
Life is Winning! 5
- GOLD NUGGET 5
- YOUNG WOMEN FOR
AMERICA: Life and
Leadership 6
- Meet the New CWA State
Director of Colorado! 6

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When Days Were Good

Tanya Ditty, VP of Field Operations



It was a terrible day as summer was coming to a close in 586 BC. For months the citizens of Jerusalem had been closed up tightly in

their city. Outside the wall, the Babylonians had been patiently waiting for the command to attack and destroy. After eighteen months, the order came, and the armies of Nebuchadnezzar advanced against the wall of the city and, in just a matter of moments, broke through and poured into the streets and alleys of Jerusalem. The hours that followed were total mayhem and carnage as the Babylonians began to destroy anything and anybody that stood in their way.

In his book called Lamentations, the prophet Jeremiah described the scene. However, his focus was not on the physical destruction of the city; instead, he put into words the emotional and spiritual devastation of the people. In the five poems that make up the five chapters of Lamentations, the prophet recounts the condition of a people who had exchanged God for glitter and the covenant for selfish comforts.

One of the saddest lines of the book comes in the first poem. As the writer told of the opening events of the city's fall, as destruction and death were all around him, his thoughts drifted back to an earlier day. He remembered days when God's blessing flowed freely through the streets of Jerusalem, heard in the laughter of children playing carefree games, the music resonating from a marriage celebration, prosperity and peace and evenings of quiet, eventful sunsets. But those days were now gone, traded for death for a few moments of wanton pleasure.

Like Jeremiah's reminiscing of Lamentations chapter one, the saddest occurrence in the life of our nation may be the memory of how things used to be. We too, as a nation, have traded the blessings of God for the lies of the Enemy.

Does God give us these memories to torture us, to show us where we once were and will never be again? No. Rather, the blessing of memory is to remind us that we have a loving God waiting for us to return to our senses by returning to Him.



Leaders, as you gather together in your Prayer/Action Chapters this month, read Nehemiah 1:1-11. Pray together the prayer of Nehemiah. It's the greatest need we have as a nation.

“Oh Lord God of heaven ... let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, to hear the prayer of Your servant that I now pray before You day and night ...” Nehemiah 1:5-6

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Is There a Vaccine for Hostility to Religious Liberty?

Alexandra McPhee, Director of Government Relations



Conscientious objectors have an honorable tradition in the history of the American military. The most recent and famous example is Private First Class (then-Corporal) [Desmond T. Doss](#), who received a Medal of Honor for his valor in the Pacific Ocean theater of World War II. He was a Seventh-day Adventist. Like many reading this article, he professed faith in Christ and loved America. Unlike those he served with, he had a faith-based conviction that he could not kill—even in a time of war!

Doss recounted the pushback he received for standing up for his beliefs. But America's religious liberty tradition enabled him to serve while living out his conviction. His colleagues were better for it – he rescued 75 fellow soldiers who were wounded during the perilous mission to scale a 400-foot cliff in Okinawa under what his Medal of Honor citation described as “desperately dangerous conditions.” What would have become of those 75 soldiers if Doss could not serve?

There has been a sad erosion in respect for religious liberty. Under President Joe Biden, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) [mandated](#) service members to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Service members have been discharged because they object to inoculation. Many service members have cited their religious beliefs for objecting to the vaccine, like a group of [Navy SEALs](#) who challenged the mandate on religious freedom grounds.

While there is variation even among Christians about convictions surrounding the vaccine, our government must take these convictions seriously. Instead, we have seen the opposite. The Army, for instance, [approved](#) just 20 faith-based exemptions out of 1,465 requests that have been adjudicated, which are in turn only a fraction of 8,000 requests for a faith-based exemption.

Fortunately, Members of Congress are demanding action on behalf of soldiers with faith-based convictions against getting the vaccine, including Sen. [Mike Lee](#) (R-Utah), [Ted Cruz](#) (R-Texas), Rep. [Mike Gallagher](#) (R-Wisconsin), Members of the [House Freedom Caucus](#), Rep. [Vicky Hartzler](#) (R-Missouri), Rep. [Beth Van Duyne](#) (R-Texas) and many more.

There are countless examples of the positive role of faith in service members' lives. “I felt like it was an honor to serve God and country,” Doss told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* in 1998. We risk losing much by kicking them out.

PRAY for a military that respects faith rather than dismisses it as an inconvenience.

ACT by asking your legislators to speak out for soldiers who wish to honorably serve God and their country without having to sacrifice their closely held religious beliefs if they choose not to be vaccinated. Locate your representative [here](#) and your senators [here](#).



IX UPDATE

The “Painstaking” Process of Federal Rulemaking

Doreen Denny, Senior Advisor



It started Day One of the Biden Administration with the stroke of a pen. President Joe Biden's sweeping

Executive Order, “Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation,” unleashed an assault on Title IX, the federal law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex. Biden's version of Title IX says sex discrimination is no longer about being male or female but is based on perceived “gender identity.” That fundamental rewrite of the meaning of “sex” under civil rights law reverses every protection for women in the last 50 years. Men can now claim our identity and our place. It came last summer in the form of a “Notice of Interpretation” followed by a “Dear Educator” letter to every school in America carrying a threat of investigations.

None of this was legitimate.

Threats might be the quickest way to force action on the Biden agenda, but the Executive Branch cannot mandate rules that exceed the authority of laws passed by Congress. Federal agencies are

required to implement laws consistent with the statute and a painstaking process of accountability governed by the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). For an activist Administration, it's much easier to impose a radical agenda through guidance letters and relent only if forced by a federal judge. This has happened on Title IX: on July 15, a [district judge ruled in favor of 20 state Attorneys General](#) who sued the Department of Education for running afoul of the APA.

Biden knows full well that the only legitimate road to change Title IX is through the laborious process of notifying the public, allowing a comment period, and fully justifying any rule changes based on the comments received. His Education Department chose June 23, the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, to announce its 700+ page proposed rule. Three weeks later, Team Biden published its notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register and officially started the public comment period, which closes on September 12.

Leading up to its release, the White House Office of Regulatory Affairs spent several months meeting with stakeholders to hear feedback about anticipated changes. Concerned Women for America (CWA) took advantage of that opportunity [laying out the case against confusing sex with “gender Identity” and its impact](#). Knowing the public opposes the impact on women's sports, Team Biden announced it would address the question of “criteria for participating on particular male and female athletic teams” in a subsequent rulemaking. That might be a convenient promise in an election year, but the published Title IX Rule applies fully to athletics as written, and nothing expressly exempts participation by males in women's sports.

By all accounts, the rulemaking is full steam ahead to the painstaking end, and that is where you come in! It is essential that CWA respond with as many challenging comments as possible. Under the APA, significant comments require a response and justification. Failure to do so is grounds for legal challenge that could tie up the rulemaking in court and prevent its implementation (that's the goal!).

Any student or teacher who holds a traditional view of marriage, the



[Click here](#) for CWA's **Guide for Commenting on Biden's Proposed Title IX Rule.**

scientific meaning of sex, or the value of unborn human life could be charged with sex-based harassment.

ACT: Go to [CWA's Action Center](#) to comment on Biden's Title IX Rule today!

PRAY: Lord, Grant us wisdom to be a voice of truth. *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*
2 Timothy 1:7

Fast Facts on Biden's Title IX proposed rule:

- ◆ Rejects that “sex” is defined as biologically male or female.
- ◆ Radically rewrites the federal law on sex discrimination that Congress has never authorized.
- ◆ Schools are required to affirm and accommodate students on the basis of “gender identity” in all programs and activities.
- ◆ Women and girls lose their rights. Males self-identifying as girls have the right to take their place.
- ◆ School personnel could be empowered to act “in loco parentis” under a new definition of “parental status.”
- ◆ Abortion is given the same status as childbearing under a new definition of “pregnancy or related conditions.”

GAVEL WATCH

Unlawful Attacks of Supreme Court Justices Multiple

Mario Diaz, Esq., General Counsel



Even after the attempted assassination of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the campaign of harassment at the homes of conservative justices has continued by a tiny but vocal radical crowd. Protesters showed up recently at a restaurant where Justice Kavanaugh was dining.

To his shame, Attorney General Merrick Garland continues ignoring these clear federal law violations. Title 18 U.S. Code § 1507 authorizes a fine or even imprisonment to “Whoever ... with the intent of influencing any judge ... pickets or parades in or near a building housing a court of the United States, or in or near a building or residence occupied or used by such judge ...”

But these radicals operate at the urgency of legal, liberal intellectuals. Harvard Law School lecturer Alejandra Caraballo tweeted recently that the justices should be harassed at every turn. “It is our civic duty,” she wrote, “to accost them every time they are in public. They are pariahs. Since women don't have their rights, these justices should never have a peaceful moment in public again.”

Congress, too, is participating. A radical group of Democrats introduced [a bill](#) to put “term limits” on Supreme Court Justices. The bill titled the Supreme Court Tenure Establishment and Retirement Modernization Act of 2022 is blatantly unconstitutional. Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution states plainly, “The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behaviour, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.” But they have no regard for the Constitution or the rule of law.

Their unconstitutional legislation says, “Each justice shall serve in regular active service for 18 years from the date of justice's commission, after which the justice shall be deemed to have retired from regular active service” And it requires the President to nominate new justices “during his first and third years after a year in which there is a Presidential election.”



Alejandra Caraballo
@Esqueer_

The 6 justices who overturned Roe should never know peace again. It is our civic duty to accost them every time they are in public. They are pariahs. Since women don't have their rights, these justices should never have a peaceful moment in public again.

It is a messaging bill, as radicals are so apt at producing. It is part of their strategy to harass and intimidate the justices into submission. It is going nowhere, and even if it did, it would be immediately declared unconstitutional.

But the point for us is to realize that the attacks on our constitutional structure and the rule of law are in full force, and we must engage them both at the spiritual and policy level.

PRAY AND ACT: Pray for the justices, pray against the evil schemes of harassment, and make sure your members of Congress are standing up to protect the crucial institution that is our U.S. Supreme Court.

Praise & Prayer

Praise God for His provisions. He will not fail us in our times of need. *"The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail."* Isaiah 58:11

Praise the Lord for the many ways, seen and unseen, known and unknown, He protects and provides for us. *"He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen."* Deuteronomy 10:21

Pray that we as the Church of the Living God would be a righteous church. Pray for yourself that you would live an exemplary life. *"Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people."* Proverbs 14:34

CWA IN THE NEWS

Fighting for Truth

Katie Everett, Press Secretary



July 6: *Concerned Woman Today: Protecting Title IX with Student-Athletes Macy Petty and Chloe Satterfield*
On the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, Penny Nance was joined by Young Women for America leaders and athletes Macy Petty and Chloe Satterfield to discuss fair play in women's sports. Listen to the full episode [here](#).

July 9: **Nance: Woke Companies Don't Really Care About Women**
Penny Nance joined [Fox News at Night](#) with Shannon Bream to discuss woke companies who have offered to pay for abortion travel and President Biden's new executive order.

July 15: **Rebuking Jesus-Liberal Elites Know Best**
Mario Diaz, Esq., [discusses](#) the deceptions and manipulation of the Left, specifically regarding the pro-abortion arguments.

July 22: **The Myth of the Neutral State in Matters of Religion**
Mario Diaz, Esq. [counters the idea](#) that public schools can be "neutral" if they remain religiously unaffiliated. He argues that the curriculum being taught in public schools is far from neutral and aims to target religion in America.

July 27: *Concerned Woman Today: Toss Target with America First Legal*
Penny Nance was joined by John Zadrozny to discuss America First Legal's complaint against DICK'S Sporting Goods, woke companies funding abortion and abortion travel, and the launch CWA's "Toss Target" campaign.



GOLD NUGGET

"We ought to see the face of God every morning before we see the face of man." Dwight L. Moody
"O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh faints for You, in a dry and thirsty land with no water." Psalm 63:12

YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA Life and Leadership

Annabelle Rutledge, National Director, Young Women for America



Young Women for America Ambassadors Abigail DeJarnatt (Arkansas) and Lena Branch

(Iowa) had the opportunity to attend the first of the Senate Judiciary Committees hearings on the *Dobbs* decision. They did this alongside members of the Field, which is always such a beautiful and complete picture of CWA.

Abigail wrote the following about her experience that day--

“Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on ‘A Post-Roe America: The Legal Consequences of the *Dobbs* Decision’ with CWA and my friend, Lena Branch.

“It was so much fun to watch exchanges unfold in real time that went viral later in the day. I was impressed with several Republican senators who really seemed to be holding the line, as well as the pro-life witnesses, who were the epitome of grace and truth.

“The hearing was heated, but I left feeling so encouraged. There is an inexplicable joy and peace that comes from knowing the truth is on

your side. Praise God He is a God of truth, not confusion!”

ACT: This month, Dr. Bill Lile, an OB/GYN and pro-life advocate, joined YWA’s Leader Call to share the amazing testimony of his clinic and give insight into how he views and treats both mother and child as his patients. The stories he shared are invaluable in their ability to make people stop and consider the humanity of the child in the womb. I highly encourage you to [watch the video](#) if you have not already!



PRAY: As we transition into August, we are in prayer for each of the women attending YWA’s Leadership Training the first week of September. Please join us in intentionally lifting up this event, the individuals there, the speakers, and our YWA team. Our desire is to glorify the Lord in worship, fellowship, and learning, so that YWA is better equipped to, above all, share the truth of God’s Word in their communities.

Meet the New CWA State Director of Colorado!



We are thrilled to introduce you to **Karen Pennington**, Concerned Women for America’s (CWA) new Colorado State Director. She first engaged with CWA

in the late 1980s while attending a Colorado Prayer/Action Chapter as a young mother. In 2020, after becoming very concerned about the country and the lack of conservative female voices and intentional prayer in Colorado, Karen started a Prayer/Action Chapter to address the seven CWA core issues.

Karen is known for regularly speaking out at the county school board meetings on issues such as equity education, critical race theory, and charter schools. She recently rolled out a plan for churches that is a collaboration between local pregnancy centers and churches.

Karen currently teaches as an affiliate professor for Regis University School of Nursing and Colorado Christian University Department of Nursing. She has spent the last 47 years in the medical field as an RN.

A note from Karen:

“I have come to understand more fully that prayer is a weapon we need to utilize more effectively to fight spiritual battles. With God’s grace and wisdom, I will bring a voice for Christian conservative women in public policy through CWA in Colorado and offer a Biblical perspective on current issues in the state’s political climate.”

PRAY: Please pray for Karen as she establishes CWA of Colorado.

