

# Townhall of Fame

## Honoring the Leaders Among Us

### Samuel Lee's Campaign for Life

When it comes to drafting pro-life legislation, veteran lobbyist Samuel Lee looks to Planned Parenthood to help fine-tune his work.

Come again? You read right.

"I'm always much more interested in what my opponents have to say about legislation and their criticism in a committee hearing than I am about what we have to say," affirms the 24-year lobbyist, "because they're scrutinizing it and they're looking at it with a different eye than we are. And I will say that almost every single time, based on their criticism or comments, that we will make changes to improve a bill."

Granted, that is not what the Planned Parenthood folks have in mind during their verbal assaults. But as director of Campaign Life Missouri, Lee knows the art of legislation. In the past three years alone, he's helped push through bills that give tax credits for individuals in his state who donate to crisis pregnancy centers, require all abortion clinics who do five or more abortions a month to be licensed as ambulatory surgical centers, and require doctors who perform abortions to have clinical privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of their location—for emergency care if there is a complication. (As a result of the latter, the last remaining abortion clinic in Springfield had to shut down.)

The ripples of Lee's work in Missouri have been profoundly felt on a national level as well. In 1986, then Governor John Ashcroft signed into law a bill, co-written by Lee, which placed several restrictions on abortion. "The *Webster V. Reproductive Health Services* decision [by the Supreme Court in 1989] came directly from that law we passed in '86," explains Lee. That ruling, in turn, informed the federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act which President Bush signed into law in 2004.

—Jay Swartzendruber

Samuel and Gloria Lee are pictured at Our Lady's Inn, a residential facility for women facing crisis pregnancies, which Samuel co-founded in 1992. Gloria, his wife, serves as director of the center.

