

12/6/96

**Rep. Tangretti Remarks**

**Umbrella of Hope Award**

**December, 1996**

(Usual greetings and acknowledgments)

I want to thank each and every one of you for this honor, certainly, but more than that I want to thank each and every one of you for the work you do and the hope and inspiration you bring to individuals and families in times of great need.

So as I accept this Third Annual Umbrella of Hope Award, I do it with the full awareness of who the real honorees are in the movement to

preserve the preciousness and sanctity of life.

They are the ones who daily take up the challenge of affirming life through their work with organizations like Mom's House, Birthright and the other supportive services that are the foundation of the pro-life movement.

I'm especially gladdened that this event ... this pro-life gathering... falls between two of our most meaningful holidays...Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I think of these holidays as uniquely life-affirming, coming as they do when life's promise seems most concealed in the season's

darkness.

One holiday celebrates family...our own family, the family of our nation and of our common humanity. And we celebrate it by inviting the family together to share the abundant blessings we enjoy from the hand of Divine Providence.

The other celebrates birth and the renewal of hope amid the turmoil that accompanies all of us on our journey through life.

We who are pro-life do not dwell on the darkness, nor are we overcome by the trials of our daily existence.

We celebrate life in all its times and circumstances and conditions and welcome all to life's banquet and to the best support the family can offer.

A political hero of mine, Hubert Humphrey, once said that the true test of a society is how it treats those of its members who are at the dawn of life and at its sunset.

Here in Pennsylvania, we can lay claim to meeting that test because we have the strongest pro-life movement anywhere in the United States, the strongest pro-life statutes, and we are the national leader in the care we provide for

our neediest older citizens.

And it all stems from one central focus...the belief that human life has intrinsic worth and that its worth was bestowed by the Author of all life and all being,

Let no one say that our pro-life concerns are selective but that we honor life from the moment of conception to its natural end.

If the darkness of materialism and secular interest seems to have descended over much of our national spirit, Pennsylvania will continue to shine forth as a beacon of hope because of what people like you and organizations like yours

*shape and words*

have established here.

I'm pleased to be part of that  
Pennsylvania pro-life heritage , proud to receive  
this award, and honored to stand in the  
company of previous recipients who've shared  
in the work of this sacred cause.