

The Watchdog

THE MRC'S MONTHLY MEMBERS' REPORT



CREATING A MEDIA CULTURE WHERE TRUTH AND LIBERTY FLOURISH IN AMERICA

Volume 14 • Issue 2 • February 2007



MRC Headquarters • Alexandria, Virginia

MRC Grassroots Network Grows to 400,000!

Conservative Activists Fighting Against the Liberal Media Every Day

Dear Friend,

The Media Research Center's on-going campaign to recruit grassroots activists to combat liberal media bias reached an all-time high in January with 400,000 people – and the numbers continue to climb. This is a tremendous achievement given that this grassroots-building network was launched less than two years ago. It is also solid evidence of what the MRC can achieve thanks to the financial help of its supporters.

In the summer of 2005, the MRC launched two campaigns and a blog (a Web site log/diary) to better inform conservatives at the grassroots about the MRC mission and to organize, recruit, and provide the tools for these conservatives to help the MRC fight against liberal media bias.

The first effort is called *MRC Action: Citizens Demanding Truth in Media*, which is designed to help conservatives use the MRC to hold the liberal media accountable for their leftist excesses. Through a partnership with Grassfire.net, a conservative activist group with 1.7 million members, the MRC sends e-mail alerts to activists about the latest examples of liberal media bias. These alerts show how conservatives can respond to that bias, providing media contact information

and, frequently, online petitions that the MRC prints and delivers to media headquarters.

For instance, in September 2006, left-winger Rosie O'Donnell, a co-host of ABC's *The View*, made the bigoted statement on national television that "radical Christianity is just as threatening

as radical Islam in a country like America." The MRC Action team immediately alerted thousands of conservatives by e-mail with a petition urging ABC to stop its blatant attacks against Christianity. Conservatives responded and, as a result, the MRC was able to present nearly 60,000 signed petitions to the corporate heads at ABC. Similar steps have been taken by MRC Action, demanding that the media tell the truth about the liberal leaders now running Congress; tell the truth about America's strong economy; and tell the truth about illegal immigration, among many other issues. These MRC Action alerts also invite conservatives to join with the MRC in regularly battling the liberal media.

By the end of 2006, more than 250,000 Americans said yes and signed-

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How You Can Help
the MRC Fight
Liberal Media Bias



www.MRC.org



On ABC's *The View*, co-host Rosie O'Donnell equated "radical Islam" with "radical Christianity," which prompted nearly 60,000 conservatives nationwide to protest directly to ABC headquarters through the MRC Action Team campaign.



Media Research Center's
20th Anniversary Gala

featuring
**Ann Coulter, Sean Hannity,
Neal Boortz and many more!**

Save the Date
Thursday, March 29, 2007
Grand Hyatt Washington
Washington, DC

visit www.MRC.org for more information

Continued from page 1

on as members of the MRC Action Team. But that's just the tip of the iceberg! It's estimated that each team member passes along each MRC e-mail to seven additional people, which means the original MRC message sent to 250,000 members reaches 1.7 million households. This is called "the grassfire effect."

A second campaign launched by the MRC in 2005 is called "Fight Media Bias" (see FightMediaBias.org). It is led by Maj. Gen. Jack Singlaub (ret.), a hero of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and a staunch supporter of the MRC. The "Fight Media Bias" effort involves inviting conservatives to send a "dog tag" to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The dog tag says "Don't Believe the Liberal Media — America Supports Our Troops!" on one side and, on the other side, provides space for the sender to write a personal message to the troops overseas. The sender gets a matching dog tag, which features a reminder to pray daily for our troops. By the end of December 2006, conservatives across the country had responded and the MRC's "Fight Media Bias" campaign had delivered 101,894 dog tags to U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A third component of the MRC's grassroots network is our blog, NewsBusters.org. This constantly updated and interactive Web log exposes and combats liberal media bias 24 hours a day. MRC analysts and editors post examples of liberal media bias on NewsBusters throughout the day and night, covering print, radio, and television media. Readers can comment on the items posted and submit items for possible analysis and discussion. The blog is enormously



successful and is frequently used and cited by the likes of Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Bill O'Reilly, Mark Levin, *The Drudge Report*, *Human Events*, *The Washington Times*, Fox News Channel, and even such outlets as MSNBC, CNN, ABC and CBS.

NewsBusters ranks No. 4 among the "Most Popular Conservative Blog," according to Sitemeter.com. An average of 50,000 people read NewsBusters every day. When *The Drudge Report* or another major outlet links to or cites a NewsBusters item, the number of readers often balloons to more than 150,000. As Rush Limbaugh himself says, "NewsBusters rocks!"

With these three campaigns — MRC Action, Fight Media Bias, and NewsBusters — the grassroots network of the MRC exceeds 400,000 people. That's 400,000 conservative Americans regularly informed (and well-informed) about liberal media bias and ready and willing to fight against it.

That, simply, is power. No, it is not as powerful as the multi-billion dollar networks and liberal media powerhouses. But, like David vs. Goliath, the MRC and its grassroots army is effective, is growing and, with continued support, will keep the liberal media on the defensive and, sometimes, knock them down cold.

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President



BUSINESS & MEDIA INSTITUTE

ADVANCING THE CULTURE OF FREE ENTERPRISE IN AMERICA

Networks Dead Wrong on Economy in 2006

BY DAN GAINOR • BOONE PICKENS FREE MARKET FELLOW AND DIRECTOR OF THE MRC'S BUSINESS & MEDIA INSTITUTE

The network news shows at ABC, CBS, and NBC pushed doom and gloom economic news throughout 2006, with dozens of references to a new Great Depression and/or massive recession. Yet their dark predictions turned out to be dead wrong, as the MRC's Business & Media Institute (BMI) has documented.

In its October 2006 *Special Report, Bad News Bears: How Networks Distort a Good Economy and Batter President Bush*, and subsequent analyses in December and in January 2007, BMI shows that the U.S. economy in 2006 was very strong and yet the networks were consistently negative. The good news in 2006, for instance, included the following:

Good News in 2006

- 2.17 million jobs were added
- Average wages increased 4.2 percent
- Unemployment, a low 4.7 percent
- Gas prices fell 75 cents between August and November

Yet, according to BMI, the networks spun that good economic news into bad in 2006. Consider:

- ABC, CBS and NBC referenced the Great Depression or suggested that recession was on the horizon a total of 49 times — almost one depression/recession story per week.

- More than one-third of the depression and recession stories (17 of 49 reports) drew actual comparisons to the Great Depression or warned of an economic collapse of that size.

- In a July 31 story on 2006 savings rates, CBS ran newspaper headlines from the 1929 Great Depression and newsreel footage of people in soup lines.

- Network reports included warnings about interest rates, high oil prices, global warming, a slowing housing market, and terrorism, and that all these items could lead to a recession.

- Concerning the alleged effects of global warming on the economy, CBS's Bill Phillips, relying on a British study, reported on Oct. 30 that "world economies, it [study] says, must invest 1 percent of their GNP now to reduce global warming gases, or it warns there will be a planet-wide slowdown of 20 percent due to drought, floods and general economic collapse. That's a catastrophe on the scale of the Great Depression of the 1930s."

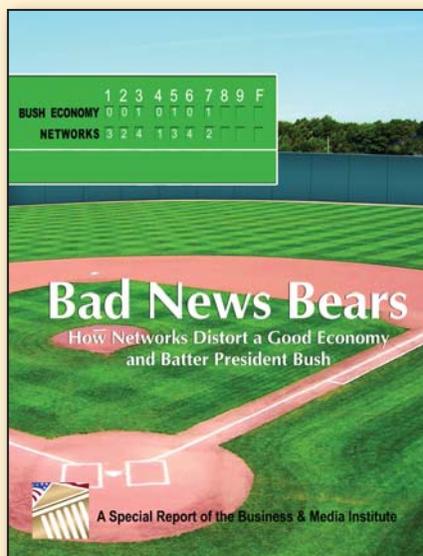
- On Feb. 3, CBS's *The Early Show* fretted, "How long can we be used to [gas] prices this high before it sort of slips the United States into recession?" Yet one day earlier, Feb. 2, the national average for a gallon of gas was \$2.355, almost 70 cents lower than the 2006 high of \$3.036 on Aug. 10.

- The media predicted a 2006 recession, and when that didn't happen they predicted a 2007 recession.

To read the BMI's complete reports on liberal media coverage of the economy, visit www.businessandmedia.org, and click on Special Reports.



On Fox's *Your World with Neil Cavuto*, BMI Director and Boone Pickens Free Market Fellow Dan Gainor discusses how the liberal media distort and downplay good economic news.



BMI's *Special Report, Bad News Bears: How Networks Distort a Good Economy and Batter President Bush*, was enormously popular and received widespread coverage in print, on radio, and on television.

Bits & Pieces

Global Freezing?

NBC *Nightly News* anchor Brian Williams can't seem to get his reporting on the weather straightened out. Twelve minutes into the Feb. 1 *Nightly News*, Williams warned viewers about "global warming," informed them about a new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate



NBC's Brian Williams warns of "global warming" and then warns of a "deep freeze" on the Feb. 1 *Nightly News*.

Change, and then noted that "Al Gore has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his work fighting global warming."

Then, eight minutes later, Williams led a report entitled "Deep Freeze" and mentioned how "the devastating first wave of winter smacked into Colorado" and, as a result, "many of the cattle in Colorado are in deep trouble and suffering badly now." Reporter Kevin Tibbles further relayed the number of calves that had died under one rancher's care, with the rancher commenting: "They were born in the snow and it was too cold."

'Mercenary' U.S. Troops

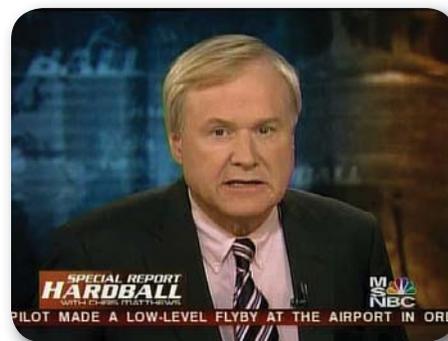
Liberals sometimes reveal too much of their true colors. William Arkin, a *Washington Post.com* columnist, did just that on Jan. 30. In a column/

lecture against U.S. troops, Arkin wrote: "We pay the soldiers a decent wage, take care of their families, provide them with housing and medical care and vast social support systems and ship obscene amenities into the war zone for them, we support them in every possible way, and their attitude is that we should in addition roll over and play dead, defer to the military and the generals and let them fight their war, and give up our rights and responsibilities to speak up because they are above society?"

As for the make-up of America's armed forces, Arkin wrote: "The recent NBC report is just an ugly reminder of the price we pay for a mercenary — oops sorry, volunteer -- force that thinks it is doing the dirty work."

Matthews' F-Bomb

MSNBC's Chris Matthews, who used to shuffle as an aide to House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neil, let his real thoughts about southern Presidents



MSNBC's Chris Matthews rants on Feb. 7 that he wants a President who doesn't own a "f***ing" ranch.

fly in a Feb. 7 telephone interview on *Imus in the Morning* (telecast on MSNBC). "I'm so sick of southern guys with ranches running this country,"

ranted Matthews. "I want a guy to run for President who doesn't have a f***ing -- I'm sorry, a ranch."

As host Don Imus began to snicker, Matthews plowed ahead with his Democratic talking points: "Wouldn't that be good, Don, a guy who wasn't on the ranch during Katrina, he was on the street corner answering questions?" After Matthews was off-air, MSNBC's Bernard McGuirk suggested Matthews was the sort who would "put on a diaper and drive 900 miles to abduct Dick Cheney or somebody," and someone else in the studio offered that "he's crazy."

Gushing Over Pelosi

The liberal media love the very liberal Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. But ABC's Diane Sawyer let her enthusiasm get the best of her when she actually reported and praised the fact that Speaker Pelosi picked some lint up off the House floor. As Sawyer reported from her interview with Pelosi broadcast on the Jan. 19 edition of *Good Morning America*: "We're walking along with the camera, she looks at the carpet. It has lint on it, little scraps of paper. She can't stand it. She gets down and cleans the carpet so we could walk. And she looks up at me and says, 'It's just the bonus of having a female Speaker of the House.'"

Sawyer's ABC colleagues were also apparently impressed. As anchor Robin Roberts said, "Yeah. Don't think any of the guys did that. All right, Diane. Have a safe trip back home."

Raise Gas Taxes!

ABC's George Stephanopoulos, apparently unfazed by the fact that the federal government spends \$2.9 trillion of taxpayers' money, wants to up the ante by raising taxes on gasoline. In interviewing Democratic presidential candidate Bill Richardson on the Jan. 21 edition of *This Week*, Stephanopoulos listened to Richardson's conservation strategy and then pushed the tax-line twice. "Higher gas taxes?"

implored Stephanopoulos. Richardson answered: "No, you don't have to do it with taxes. You need a conservation effort that every American participates in, inspired by the President." Then, again, Stephanopoulos: "But aren't higher energy taxes the best way to get people to conserve?"

During a similar interview with presidential aspirant Tom Vilsack, back on Dec. 3, Stephanopoulos pushed the same liberal position, claiming, "just about every expert on energy says the best way to become energy independent is to raise the price of oil and gas, to have a serious energy tax. Why not call for it?"

Steph Reads the NYT

Given his zealousness in promoting gas tax increases, it seems clear that ABC's George Stephanopoulos reads the *New York Times*, whose own Thomas Friedman is also hell-bent on promoting oil taxes. It seems that whenever anyone asks Mr. Friedman how to fix the Middle East, his response is the same: increase taxes. Case



On the Jan. 21 *This Week*, ABC's George Stephanopoulos contends that "higher gas taxes" make good public policy.

in point: On the Feb. 6 *Today* show, NBC's Meredith Vieira interviewed Mr. Friedman about the Iraq debate on Capitol Hill.

Setting up Friedman with his own premise, Ms. Vieira asked: "Well you've said, 'We need to reshape the game board.' What do you mean by that?" Friedman then gave a long-winded response that eventually revealed his solution: "oil tax." Friedman wants to fix a price floor for oil at \$45 per barrel and "drive conservation in this country

at a whole new level and stimulate alternatives." Price controls and gas taxes — and back to the good old days of Jimmy Carter.

Missing Good News

NBC News correspondent Jane Arraf recently admitted that good news from Iraq is often missing from news coverage of the Iraq war. Appearing on the Jan. 19 NBC *Nightly News*, she told anchor Brian Williams that journalists are "really good at getting across the relentless bombing and the violence, but it's really a lot harder for us to portray those spaces in between."

Williams acknowledged that he was often asked "where's the good news we know is going on there?" To which Arraf noted, "there are children walking to school, there are girls and boys, there are Iraqi girls who are walking to school, and it's that wonderful sign of resilience that is the fabric, the background of life there."

Minibits

■ CNN's Jack Cafferty lets it fly: "This country's being ripped apart by an ill-advised war that's failing, and an executive branch that's run amok.

If the Democratic Party refuses to confront this administration in a meaningful way on the issues that are threatening the very survival of our nation, then they're no better than the people committing these crimes." ■ On the

President's State of the Union address, NBC's Meredith Vieira asks: "The question tonight, will anybody be listening to the President anymore when he speaks?" ■ *The Washington Post's* Tom Shales waxes proudly about Sen.

Ted Kennedy's appearance at the President's State of the Union: "He looks so venerable and distinguished ...in fact he seems more and more to resemble Claude Rains as a veteran white-haired senator in Frank Capra's classic movie 'Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.' Life imitating art's imitation of life." ■ Concerning the defeat of Hillary-

care in the 1990s, MSNBC's Chris Matthews tells Sen. Clinton, "the word came from the ideologues on the right, 'Kill this baby in its bassinet.'" ■ PBS's Bill Moyers complains: "Day after day, the egalitarian

creed of our Declaration of Independence is trampled underfoot by hired experts and sloganeers, who speak of the 'death tax,' 'the ownership society,' 'the culture of life,' 'the liberal assault on God and family,' 'compassionate conservatism.'" ■ On ABC's *The View*, Rosie O'Donnell lets it all hang out, again:

"Someone, I believe, should call for the impeachment of George Bush" so "the world knows that the nation is not standing behind this President's choices, that the nation feels differently than the man who is leading as if it were a dictatorship."



CNN's Jack Cafferty rants that America is "being ripped apart" by criminals in the Bush Administration.

L. Brent Bozell III's December 6, 2006, Nationally Syndicated Column

Youth Double Standard: Obama vs. Dubay

Hillary has to be nervous. At this juncture in the campaign, she's being edged out in the Goo Primary. Her natural allies in the media suddenly are more adulatory toward Barack Obama — and more defensive of anyone who would dare question his exotic biography.

Insight magazine, a long-standing publication of *The Washington Times* Company, published a gossipy item with anonymous "Democratic Party" sources (they claimed some of them came from Hillary's camp) that Obama had attended a madrassa, a radical Islamic school, in Indonesia as a child. The story was unproven, and should not have been published in its sorry condition.

The most obvious media outlet coming to the rescue was CNN, which now might be the Obama News Network, and not just the Clinton News Network. "DEBUNKING A SMEAR," screamed the headline on CNN. Reporter John Vause reported from the scene in Indonesia that Obama was actually schooled in a state-run school that touched on religion only once a week "in one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in Jakarta."

Wolf Blitzer repeatedly described CNN as doing "serious journalism," and that "CNN did what any serious news organization is supposed to do in this kind of a situation. We actually conducted an exclusive firsthand investigation." Further to the point, CNN president Jon Klein milked the issue to savage the competition, telling the *New York Times* it was irresponsible for Fox News to mention the Insight tale "without bothering to — or being able to — ascertain the facts."

Earth to CNN: Facts are important, but you might want to save the lecturing for someone who didn't hire Peter Arnett to shovel Saddam's horse manure on your airwaves. Or outrageously aired a "news documentary" that falsely accused America of gassing its own soldiers in Laos. Factually challenged smears? CNN has a record unchallenged on cable.

Let's be clear about this. The liberal media don't care what Democratic love objects do when they're in grade school, even in Indonesia, just as they didn't care what Bill Clinton was doing touring Russia and the Soviet bloc in his twenties, just as they didn't care how he dodged the draft or whether he inhaled, just as they didn't even want to know if Clinton raped a woman when he was 32.

But Obama ought to thank his lucky liberal stars that he's not a Republican. This is not the standard the media had for George W. Bush in 1999, when

the entire liberal media ran in a pack suggesting Bush was a cokehead.

How did CNN, that oasis of "serious journalism" that always attacks a story facts first, approach the Bush-cocaine flap in August of 1999? First, in early August, they teased the reader with talk of "rumors" about Bush on "Larry King Live." Then it surfaced on several weekends as rumor-floating on "The Capital Gang," and as a media ethics discussion on "Reliable Sources."

Then it arrived on the news shows, but always presented in play-dumb terms as an unmanned missile, a question anonymously "dogging" Bush. (What rich irony!) CNN only had a candidate who refused to answer a question, beyond saying he'd pass a government background check. Wolf Blitzer and the president of CNN didn't send reporters anywhere to investigate. There were no lectures about getting ahead of the facts. The dominant expectation of CNN for days and days was that Bush must answer the charge. He had to deny something no one had credibly accused him of doing.

How low could it go? On its old all-female chat show "CNN & Company," *Chicago Tribune* reporter Ellen Warren upped the ante, speculating that Bush was into heroin, not just cocaine: "No, the questions aren't going to go away. And if George Bush used cocaine or main-lined heroin, somebody did it with him, somebody saw it, and reporters will find out about it."

CNN not only presented and fed the rumors, it then accused others of having done it. Blitzer reported that while Democrats were "not going to out and start making those kinds of accusations" of cocaine use directly, they're happy "that at least some of the Republicans on the far right, some of the more right-wing Republicans, are doing in effect their work for them." He said this without giggling.

But the richest irony in the contrast is this: Obama has admitted in his biography to using cocaine in high school and college. CNN doesn't care. While they scour the globe to rebut madrassa stories, they're not asking him about this settled truth. Serious journalism, indeed.

As usual, CNN devotes its "serious" journalism to very partisan goals: defeating Republicans and making the path straight and flowery for Democrats. Now that's just reporting the facts.



MRC in the News

The experts at the Media Research Center are interviewed almost every day on stories of national importance, often reaching millions of Americans daily. They provide analysis and commentary on radio, TV, the Internet, in magazines, books and in newspapers, always striving to help restore political balance to the major media. Some of the MRC's latest media appearances include the following:

Television

FNC:

Hannity's America, Feb. 11
Hannity & Colmes, Feb. 1, 7
Your World w/Neil Cavuto,
 Jan. 22, Feb. 5
The O'Reilly Factor, Jan. 29
Political Grapevine w/ Brit Hume,
 Jan. 29

CBN:

NewsWatch, Jan. 30

Radio

Righttalk.com, Feb. 7
 Right Balance, Jan. 31, Feb. 8
 Lars Larson Show, Feb. 9
 G. Gordon Liddy, Feb. 8
 Sinclair Broadcast Group, Feb. 8
 Thom Hartmann Show, Feb. 14
 National Pro-Life Radio (Sirius Satellite),
 Feb. 7
 Faith2Action, Feb. 5
 Catholic Channel (Sirius Satellite), Feb. 6
 American Family Radio, Feb. 2
 USA Radio, Feb. 2
 WBT, Charlotte, NC, Feb. 4, 10
 WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, Feb. 1, 8
 WDUN, Atlanta, GA, Feb. 12
 KOGO, San Diego, CA, Jan. 31, Feb. 7
 WBT, Charlotte, NC, Feb. 11
 WBAL, Baltimore, MD, Feb. 10
 KMJ, Fresno, CA, Feb. 6
 KWEL, Midland, TX, Feb. 12
 KGNW, Greenville, NC
 KLPW, St. Louis, MO, Feb. 12
 KSLR, San Antonio, TX, Jan. 31
 WDEO, Ann Arbor, MI, Feb. 6
 KFIV, Sacramento, CA, Feb. 6
 KGNW, Seattle, WA, Jan. 30
 KERN, Bakersfield, CA, Jan. 31



Brent Bozell discusses the liberal media's fawning coverage of Senator Hillary Clinton on Fox's *Hannity's America*.



On Fox's *Hannity & Colmes*, the MRC's Tim Graham details the liberal media double-standard coverage of Nancy Pelosi vs. Newt Gingrich.



BMI Boone Pickens Free Market Fellow Dan Gainor explains the slanted media coverage of global warming on Fox's *Your World with Neil Cavuto*.



MRC Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham discusses the liberal bias of NBC on Fox's *The O'Reilly Factor*.

WCHS, Charleston, WV, Feb. 2
 WKCT, Bowling Green, KY, Feb. 12
 KPDO, Portland, OR, Feb. 5
 WAFG, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Feb. 12
 KZIM, Cape Girardeau, MO, Feb. 27
 WTKF, Greenville, NC, Feb. 2
 WAFG, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Jan. 29

Print

Variety, Feb. 13
Investor's Business Daily, Jan. 31,
 Feb. 8
National Post, Feb. 3
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Feb. 5
New York Post, Feb. 4
Brattleborough Reformer, Feb. 3
Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Feb. 6
Washington Times, Feb. 1, 2, 8, 13
Christian Post, Feb. 10
Wall Street Journal, Jan. 31
The Times-Gazette, Feb. 9
*Politically Incorrect Guide to Global
 Warming and Environmentalism*

Magazines to
 scan...or a
 newspaper
 article??

Internet

MediaBistro blog, Feb. 4
 National Review Online, Feb. 4
 The Corner blog, Feb. 7
 FoxNews.com, Jan. 25
 The Frontrunner, Feb. 8
 WorldNetDaily, Jan. 29, Feb. 2, 6
 Focus on the Family, Citizen Link,
 Jan. 26
 Church Report.com, Feb. 1, 2
 Townhall.com, Feb. 7
 Compton Bulletin.com, Feb. 8
 American Thinker, Feb. 6
 Slate.com, Feb. 5
 The Bulletin, Feb. 5
 Reformer.com, Feb. 3
 CNSNews.com, Jan. 31
 LifeSiteNews.com, Jan. 31
 Blogger News Network, Jan. 31
 Human Events Online, Jan. 31
 ~ Partial listing of all media

THE LIGHT OF TRUTH CAMPAIGN

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For more information, please call Thom Golab today at:

(800) 672-1423

You can also visit us online at www.mrc.gift-planning.org

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