

Blackmun Wall

Abortion Deaths – Robert Crist, M.D.

Williams, Nichole

Nichole, age 22 and the mother of three, went to Reproductive Health Services in St. Louis for a first-trimester abortion on April 25, 1997. Reproductive Health is run by Planned Parenthood of St. Louis, and the abortion was performed by Dr. Robert Crist, who is their medical director. Before the abortion was completed, Dr. Crist noticed that Nichole was having breathing difficulties. He finished the procedure and instructed staff to call for an ambulance. She was taken to Barnes-Jewish Hospital where she would die later that day. Nichole was the third woman to die after having an abortion by Dr. Crist. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch: “Abortion-Related Death Spurs Activists Pleas,” April 27, 1997; Miscellaneous, April 26, 1997; “Woman’s Death After Abortion Under Scrutiny,” April 29, 1997; “Abortion Doctor Much Despised, Much Praised,” April 29, 1997; “Drug Was Fatal In ’88 Abortion,” April 30, 1997)

Veal, Latachie

This 17-year-old teen underwent a 20 to 22-week abortion by Dr. Robert Crist on November 2, 1991, at West Loop Clinic in Houston. Afterward, she started bleeding heavily, and asked the staff for help. She was told that her symptoms were normal, and was sent home without any provision to monitor her. Later that evening, she stopped breathing. Her brother-in-law called 911 while her sister did CPR. She was pronounced dead upon arrival at a local hospital. Dr. Crist reportedly called the publicity about Latachie’s death “media hype and a political event.” (Houston Chronicle: “Abortion doctor has history of suits,” November 3, 1991; “Death of teen after abortion leads to probe of care at medical clinic,” November 6, 1991; “Doctor labels reports of death of abortion patient media hype,” November 11, 1991; “Doctor investigated in post-abortion death,” The Kansas City Star, November 6, 1991, A1, A13; “Young woman dies after having abortion,” Houston Post, November 7, 1991, A-27)