

Re: My thoughts on the Terry Schiavo case

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.transcription/2005-03/1663.html>

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Date: 03/22/05

Date: Tue, 22 Mar 2005 12:34:04 -0500

Jay, we often disagree, though I respect your opinions, but this message is right on line with my thoughts and beliefs. Thanks for stating it so thoughtfully.

Barb C.

"Jay Vance" <jay@vancedigitalDELETE.com> wrote in message news:CaKdnSyUmYiB293fRVn-2Q@adelphia.com...

- > *If ever there was a situation that doesn't seem to have one "right"*
- > *solution, this is it. I feel for Terry's family, even though I don't*
- > *necessarily agree with their attempts to keep her alive at any cost, with*
- > *no*
- > *real reason to expect that she will ever improve. I am staunchly*
- > *pro-life,*
- > *but I have a real problem with the vast amounts of money that are spent to*
- > *add a few months or even weeks to our lives, and I also disagree with the*
- > *concept that if it is scientifically possible to do something, we ought to*
- > *do it, regardless of what the practical benefits may be. I have a problem*
- > *with using Christianity as the basis of a "life at all costs" philosophy*
- > *without also acknowledging that for a Christian this life isn't all there*
- > *is--on the contrary, what's waiting for us after this life is over is so*
- > *much better than anything we enjoy now. The Christian point of view about*
- > *the sanctity of life is incomplete without acknowledging that death for*
- > *the*
- > *Christian is not some horror to be avoided at all costs. The Bible simply*
- > *does not teach that.*
- >
- > *I realize my point of view is colored by the pragmatic nature of my*
- > *upbringing; my family has never been much into drama or histrionics.*
- > *Death*
- > *has never been something to dread for us. My grandfather passed away at*
- > *home in his own bed with Alzheimer's. When he had no knowledge of*
- > *anything*
- > *going on around him, we simply let him go--meaning we didn't force-feed*
- > *him.*
- > *All this talk of how horrible it must be to die of starvation or*
- > *dehydration*
- > *is simply not accurate when you're talking about someone who has no*
- > *cognitive abilities.*

>
> *The fact that it is POSSIBLE to keep someone alive for years and years in*
> *a*
> *vegetative state by feeding them parenterally or intravenously or whatever*
> *doesn't mean that it is IMPERATIVE that we do so. In fact, I'm going to go*
> *WAY out on a limb and suggest that what Terry did or did not say about*
> *being*
> *kept alive at any cost is not the issue. Are we REALLY saying that if a*
> *person says, "I want to be kept alive no matter how much it costs and no*
> *matter how debilitated I am and no matter how much technology it takes,"*
> *we*
> *as a society are then REQUIRED to honor those wishes NO MATTER WHAT? Are*
> *we*
> *going to start prosecuting people who don't spend every last dime of their*
> *own money and/or society's resources in order to keep someone's heart*
> *beating and lungs working a little while longer? I'm not talking about*
> *actively causing someone's death, mind you, nor am I advocating legalizing*
> *suicide or assisted suicide. But it should not be a crime to let someone*
> *die in peace when their body and/or mind is simply worn out. I can hear*
> *the*
> *question being asked, "So who gets to decide when enough is enough?" All*
> *I*
> *can tell you is that for doggone sure I don't want the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT*
> *making that decision!*
>
> *I have a real problem with the federal government getting involved in this*
> *for a couple of reasons. First of all, it's just another example of*
> *government intrusion into our lives, something conservatives should be*
> *fighting against tooth and nail. Furthermore, it undermines the rule of*
> *law, something else that is a bedrock principle of conservatism. This*
> *issue*
> *has been reviewed and re-reviewed ad infinitum by at least 19 judges and I*
> *don't know how many legislators in Florida. The laws of Florida have been*
> *followed; there is no cause for federal intervention, in my opinion.*
> *Thirdly, I don't agree with using a tragic situation like this to further*
> *a*
> *political agenda, I don't care whose it is. To me this is no different*
> *than*
> *when feminists were using bogus statistics some years back about the*
> *percentage of women who were the victims of abuse at the hands of men.*
> *When*
> *they were confronted with the fact that their statistics were out and out*
> *lies, they responded by saying that the issue of abuse was real, so*
> *therefore anything that brought attention to the problem was okay, even if*
> *it wasn't actually true! Regardless of what the issue is, it is morally*
> *and*
> *ethically wrong to use false information or personal tragedy to further an*
> *agenda, in my opinion.*
>
> *Jay*
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