

Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network Comments on the Death of Jack Kevorkian

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ST. PETERSBURG, June 3 / -- Today marks the end of Jack Kevorkian's reign of terror over vulnerable and needy patients. For decades Jack Kevorkian spent his life advocating for assisted suicide, helping dozens of mostly non-terminal persons kill themselves.

"It was clear that this man had a dysfunctional obsession and infatuation with death and that his true involvement in these deaths was never properly reported," stated Terri Schiavo's Life and Hope Network's Executive Director, Bobby Schindler.

In an October 2010 MSNBC interview with Jack Kevorkian, he was asked to weigh in on Terri Schiavo's two-week court ordered dehydration death. Dr. Kevorkian stated that Terri would have qualified for his assisted suicide service. Kevorkian further explained, "[She] could qualify because the husband was next of kin, legally. And that's all that counts because you can't have interference by family members who might be antagonistic or hostile."

"This statement only further exposes how the influences in society and the media used the torturous death of my sister, Terri Schiavo, to validate the 'Right to Die' mentality and Kevorkian's lust for the death of others, which drove his agenda," Schindler explained.

Contrary to this mentality, Terri Schiavo's Life and Hope Network aggressively advocates for vulnerable persons, the disabled, and those who are dying.

"History will surely judge Kevorkian as a very dark figure. We are very encouraged that today we see a greater awareness that every life deserves dignity and protection," stated Suzanne Schindler Vitadamo, Terri Schiavo's sister. "While Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network denounces all of his work, we do recognize that every life is precious and therefore extend our prayers and condolences to the family of Jack Kevorkian," added Vitadamo.

We understand from reports that Dr. Kevorkian passed in an environment that was neither "antagonistic" or "hostile." Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of his victim patients.

About Terri's Life & Hope Network: The Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network was established by the family members of Terri Schiavo to protect the rights of people with cognitive disabilities. It has communicated with and supported more than 1,000 families, and has been involved in hundreds of cases since Terri's death. Terri's Life & Hope Network was the recipient of the Gerard Health Foundation Life Prizes Award for their efforts in protecting the value and dignity of the profoundly brain-injured. Learn more about Terri's Life & Hope Network by visiting www.terrisfight.org