

## **“Terri’s Legacy Project”**

BY Joleigh Little

This is going to hurt ... probably a lot. Take yourself back in time to March 18–31, 2005.

Remember where you were when you learned that Terri Schindler Schiavo’s feeding tube had been removed, beginning her horrific court-ordered dehydration and starvation death. Remember the ups and downs of that two weeks—the unrestrained joy you felt when you heard that Congress had passed a law that might save her life, and the horror, helplessness, and sorrow you felt when judge chose to ignore it.

Remember the looks on the faces of Bob, Mary, Suzanne, and Bobby—the Schindler family. Remember how your throat ached from crying, or trying to keep from crying, and remember the hours you spent prayerfully pleading that somehow her life would be spared.

Put yourself back on your couch as you watched the news reports, or in front of your computer as you read the grim headlines. Because in order to understand the importance of the project I’m about to describe, you need to remember the pain you felt over Terri’s death.

You need to remember the resolve you felt that no matter what it took, you were going to do your part to make sure this sort of horror never played itself out again—not on the American landscape, and certainly not on your watch.

Remember what you would have done to save Terri’s life during those horrible final weeks. Like most pro-lifers, you probably would have done anything and everything within your power, if it would have made a difference.

Now ask yourself what you would do to save the life of someone just like Terri? Someone who has a disability, is vulnerable, and is in danger of being killed? Someone whose only “crime” is not measuring up to some ridiculous “quality of life” standard set by people who fail to understand that life is precious regardless of level of ability?

Would you make a list? Would you talk to other pro-lifers, your family members and friends? Would you make a few phone calls to pro-life churches? How about calling a few doctors, nurses, and lawyers to ask for their help? Think you’re up to writing down a few names and sending them through the mail?

If you answered “yes” to any or all of these questions, we need your help. It really is as simple as that.

National Right to Life is working with the Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation to establish the “Terri’s Legacy Project.” This project will identify pro-life medical and legal professionals in all 50 states who are willing to step in and help in cases similar to Terri’s.

Calls come in to our offices almost daily from family members trying to protect loved ones from death by starvation and dehydration. Most of them won’t make the news—that doesn’t make them any less important. We need desperately to establish a network that can help these families. And we need to do it now.

In order for this project to succeed, we need your help. Most everyone in this Movement knows of a pro-life doctor, nurse, or mental health professional. (If nothing else, you should be sure your own doctor shares your pro-life values and will fight for you and your family.) Quite a few of us even know pro-life attorneys. All you need to do is send their contact information into us. We will do the rest.

This project is critical. Potential tragedies just like Terri’s play themselves out daily in our nation. As a Movement, we need to do everything in our power to stop the killing.

Upon hearing of Terri’s case last year, one little boy remarked, “It’s like abortion, but on adults.” As horrifying as

that is to realize, we need to take hope.

We know how to fight abortion. And by using the same set of skills, the same fierce resolve, and in many cases, the same contact list, we can also fight euthanasia. Please do everything you can, before it's too late for another helpless, vulnerable person.

Do it for Terri—in her memory, as part of her living legacy. Do it for your own children, your parents, or your spouse. Do it because it's the right thing to do. Do it because in doing it you will save precious lives. But please, just do it.

For more information on Terri's Legacy Project, visit our web site at [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org), or call us at (715) 378-4302. We will be happy (ecstatic, even) to send you a packet that will show you step by step how you can be a part of this project.