



PRESS RELEASE

[Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network](#) & [Catholic Healthcare International](#)

Terri's Day 2020 to be Celebrated by Catholic Healthcare International and Cardinal Raymond Burke

A Celebration of the Life of Terri Schiavo will be held April 2nd

BRIGHTON, MI , Feb. 19, 2020 -- Fifteen years after the private family struggle to save Terri Schiavo's life escalated into a public battle, her legacy continues more prominently than ever through the work of the [Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network](#).

The nation will mark 15 years since Terri's tragic death. Her memory will be honored on April 2nd, 2020, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Brighton, MI, with a Memorial Mass concelebrated by His Eminence, Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke and Archbishop Allen Vigneron, followed by a reception (registration required) at 6:30 pm.

The event will raise awareness and support for the advocacy efforts for the medically vulnerable with the announcement of the first ever Terri Schiavo Rehabilitation Center, in collaboration with [Catholic Healthcare International](#), as the first step in bringing a [Padre Pio Home for the Relief of Suffering Hospital](#), medical school, shrine, and physician's network to the USA.

Terri, who was listed alongside Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II, and Mother Theresa in [USA TODAY's 25 Lives of Indelible Impact](#), was named among those who moved us most during that quarter-century.

"It is only because of Terri's extraordinary battle for life that put my family in the position to help others like her" says her brother, Bobby Schindler. "Terri continues to touch the hearts of people around the world, and we are often are told of the prayers that are offered to my sister to heal those who are in similar situations."

"Upholding human dignity through service to the medically vulnerable" is the mission of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network, continued Schindler, "and we are raising awareness for the rights of all persons vulnerable to denial of basic care." The Washington, DC-based nonprofit has served more than 3,000 patients and families through its National Crisis Lifeline, supporting them with advocacy, guidance and resources at no charge.

For more information about Terri's Day, to reserve your free tickets for the reception, or to become a sponsor, visit Catholic Healthcare International's website at [CHI-USA.com](#)

Background: In 1990, at age 26, a healthy Terri (Schindler) Schiavo inexplicably collapsed, sustaining a brain injury that, like many disabled Americans, caused her to be unable to feed herself. After winning a medical malpractice lawsuit whose explicit intent was to obtain funds to care for his wife over her lifetime, Michael Schiavo, Terri's husband and guardian, ultimately pursued a legal strategy to deny food and water to his wife in order to intentionally starve and dehydrate her to death. A national debate unfolded as Terri's mother, father, and siblings stepped in to advocate for the life of their



daughter and sister. In response to the urging of tens of thousands, Florida Governor Jeb Bush intervened to protect the life of Terri Schiavo from intentional starvation and dehydration. "Terri's Law" was passed in 2003, restoring Terri's right to food and water as a disabled American. Unfortunately, "Terri's Law" was ultimately overturned. In 2005, the U.S. Congress passed and signed a bill into law with unanimous bipartisan consent allowing a federal court to intervene to protect Terri's life and guarantee the right of disabled Americans to food and water, but this effort, too ultimately failed and Terri was permanently denied food and water on March 18, 2005. She died 13 days later from extreme dehydration.

Terri's Day was established in 2007 and is celebrated each year to remember Terri and foster prayer, solidarity, and advocacy for the rights of disabled Americans and especially those vulnerable to denial of basic care, including the right to food and water.