

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Living Will of

(name and address)

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name), being of sound mind and body, unequivocally declare that in the event of a catastrophic injury, I do not wish to be kept alive indefinitely by artificial means. I hereby instruct my loved ones and relatives to remove all life-support systems, once it has been determined that my brain is longer functioning in a cognizant manner and there is no hope of my living again as a fully conscious human being. However, that judgment should be made only after thorough consultation with medical experts; i.e: individuals who actually have been trained, educated and certified as doctors.

Under no circumstances – and I can't state this too strongly – should my fate be put in the hands of peckerwood politicians who couldn't pass ninth-grade biology if their lives depended on it. Furthermore, it is my firm hope that, when the time comes, any discussion about terminating my medical treatment should remain private and confidential.

Living in today's America, however, I am acutely aware that the legislative and executive branches of federal and state governments have become fond of meddling in family matters, and have little concern for the privacy and dignity of individuals.

Therefore, I wish to make my views on this subject as clear and unambiguous as possible. Recognizing that some politicians seem cerebrally challenged themselves (and with no medical excuse), I'll try to keep this simple and to the point:

1. While remaining sensitive to the feelings of loved ones who might cling to hope for my recovery, let me state that if a reasonable amount of time passes, say, \_\_\_\_ months – and I fail to sit up and ask for a cold beer, it should be presumed that I won't ever get better. When such a determination is reached by 5 qualified medical doctors who have thoroughly examined me for several days and on several occasions (and not by some erstwhile doctor-politician looking at my video pictures from Washington), I hereby instruct my spouse, children and attending physicians to pull the plug, reel in the tubes and call it a day.
2. Under no circumstances shall the members of the White House or federal or state legislatures enact a special law to keep me on life-support machinery. It is my express wish that these boneheads mind their own damn business, and pay attention instead to the health, education and future of Americans who aren't yet in a persistent vegetative state.
3. Under no circumstances shall the governor of Florida butt into this case and order my doctors to put a feeding tube down my throat. I don't care how many fundamentalist votes he's trying to scrounge for himself, his brother or his cronies for 2006 and 2008, it is my wish that he plays politics with someone else's life and leaves me to die in peace.
4. I couldn't care less if a hundred thousand religious zealots send e-mails to legislators in which they pretend to care about me. I don't know these people, and I certainly haven't authorized them to preach or crusade on my behalf. I am minding my own business and they should mind their own.
5. It is my heartfelt wish to expire quietly and without a public spectacle. This is obviously impossible once elected officials become involved. So, while recognizing the wrenching emotions that attend the prolonged death of a loved one, I hereby instruct my relatives to settle all disagreements about my care in private or in the courts, as provided by law. If any of my family goes against my wishes and turns my case into a political cause, I hereby promise to come back from the grave and make his or her existence a living \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Witness 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
sign and print name & address

Witness 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
sign and print name & address