

J.J. Hanson – honoring a courageous, charismatic and inspirational leader against assisted suicide and euthanasia



Dr. Kenneth R. Stevens, Jr, J.J. Hanson and Jeanette Hall, on October 16, 2015 after lunch together at Shari's Restaurant in King City, Oregon.

JJ Hanson was in Oregon attending a memorial for one of his fellow marines who had been under his command in Iraq.

We had a wonderful time together discussing medical ethics and the problems with legalizing assisted suicide.

The following memorial statement from Patients' Rights Action Fund describes him well:

"Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you that JJ Hanson, Patients' Rights Action Fund

President, passed away on December 30, 2017 peacefully at home surrounded by his family and their love. The world and our cause have lost a courageous, charismatic and inspirational leader whose short life was dedicated to service to others. To know him was to love him. JJ is survived by his beloved wife, Kristen, and two young sons, James and Lucas.

The New York Alliance Against Assisted Suicide released the following life summation and tribute to JJ Hanson.

NYAAAS Mourns the Passing of J.J. Hanson

Albany, NY - On December 30, 2017, following a valiant battle with cancer, J.J. Hanson passed away surrounded by family and friends.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq, J.J. was diagnosed with glioblastoma--an aggressive form of brain cancer--in May 2014. Thirty-three years of age at the time, J.J. was told that he had four months to live; however, he proved the doctors wrong. After J.J. underwent a grueling regimen of surgery, chemotherapy, and an experimental treatment, his cancer subsided.

Following his recovery, J.J. became a national advocate for the terminally ill. In his role as President of the Patients' Rights Action Fund, J.J. worked to prevent the legalization of physician-assisted suicide in New York and other states. J.J.'s experience with cancer, together with his professional background in government, equipped him to be a remarkably effective leader, communicator, and influencer. J.J. also created a blog to share information about his journey with glioblastoma; the blog, YouCantHurtSteel.com <

J.J. Hanson outlived his initial prognosis by more than three years, and his life story has been an encouragement and an inspiration to cancer survivors and many others across the country. He is survived by his wife, Kristen, and their two sons.

The New York Alliance Against Assisted Suicide mourns the passing of our treasured colleague and friend. We will miss J.J.'s leadership, his optimism, his selflessness, his tenacity, and his willingness to draw upon his own difficult experiences to advocate for others facing

challenging medical problems. We can unequivocally say that J.J. Hanson's life--despite its brevity--made the world a better place for those who will come after him.”

I, Kenneth Stevens, appreciate the life and example of JJ. He was truly a champion and hero; an inspiration to all, and I am grateful that I had the opportunity to meet and have lunch with him and my patient, Jeanette Hall in October, 2015 in King City, OR.

We will miss him. We pray for his family.