

# The Quincy Sun

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## Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL.

- On **Sept. 3, 1783**, the American Revolution comes to an end when representatives of the United States, Great Britain, Spain and France sign the Treaty of Paris. The signing signified America's status as a free nation, as Britain formally recognized the independence of its 13 former American colonies.
- On **Sept. 1, 1850**, circus entrepreneur P.T. Barnum brings to the United States Jenny Lind ("The Swedish Nightingale"), the greatest opera performer in the world at the time. Her tour is believed to have netted Barnum close to a half-million dollars.
- On **Aug. 31, 1888**, Mary Ann Nichols, the first victim of London serial killer "Jack the Ripper," is found murdered in Whitechapel's Buck's Row. On Nov. 7, after a month of silence, Jack took his fifth and last victim, Mary Kelly. In 1892, with no leads found and no more murders recorded, the Jack the Ripper file was closed.
- On **Aug. 29, 1945**, President Harry S. Truman authorizes the Navy to seize control of and operate petroleum refineries to counteract strikes by oil workers. Oil, gas and chemical workers had worked hard during the war to meet production demands and now wanted to return to a 40-hour work week. They resented the amount of money oil industry CEOs were making off of their labor while they simultaneously threatened to lower workers' wages after the war.
- On **Sept. 4, 1957**, Ford Motor Company unveils the Edsel. One reporter called it "an Oldsmobile sucking a lemon." In addition, at highway speeds, the famous hood ornament had a tendency to fly off and into the windshield.
- On **Aug. 30, 1967**, Thurgood Marshall becomes the first African American to be confirmed as a Supreme Court justice. He would remain on the Supreme Court for 24 years before retiring.
- On **Sept. 2, 1987**, the trial of Mathias Rust, the 19-year-old pilot who flew his Cessna plane into Red Square in May 1987, begins in Moscow. Rust had become an international celebrity after he flew completely undetected through Soviet airspace. Rust claimed that he was merely trying to promote world peace. (c) 2022 Hearst Communications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

### Frost dates

Knowing your local average frost dates helps you calculate when to plant your fall veggies, as each kind varies in their tolerance and will need time to mature to harvest before a freeze can damage them. Light freezes of 29° to 32°F can kill tender plants; temps of 25° to 28°F are destructive to most vegetation; 24°F or colder temps will likely inflict heavy damage to most garden plants. Go to [www.almanac.com/gardening/frostdates](http://www.almanac.com/gardening/frostdates) to find frost dates near you.

Source: [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)

- Brenda Weaver



# The Answer Is Not Medically Assisted Suicide – Disabled People Demand Full Civil, Human Rights

By JOHN KELLY

Thirty-eight years ago an accident left me paralyzed below my shoulders. My father was brokenhearted and wished I had died instead. His hopelessness about my life, however painful for me, was but a simple reflection of widespread prejudice against disabled people.

A few years after my injury, Jack Kevorkian became a sort of folk hero for "helping" terminally ill people die through his "self deliverance" machine. It later came out that more than two thirds of his clients were not terminal at all, but disabled people, primarily women, in psychological distress.

Over time, as medicine has focused increasingly on patient "quality-of-life" as a barometer of life-worthiness, death has been recharacterized as a benefit to an ill or disabled individual. Most physicians (82%, a Harvard study recently found) view our "quality-of-life" as worse. Disability advocates have raised concerns about the fate of disabled people like Oregonian Sarah McSweeney and Texan Michael Hickson. Both wanted to live, both were loved by family and caregivers, but they died after hospital personnel denied them treatment based on their disabilities.

Over the last 25 years first Oregon, then additional states and Washington D.C. established assisted suicide programs for people expected to die within six months. Proponent rhetoric has focused on compassion for people's physical pain and suffering, and the hope of a choiceful, peaceful end.

The reality, as shown by the top five reported "end of life concerns" in Oregon, hinge not on pain, but on people's "existential distress," as one study termed it, in reaction to the disabling features of their illness: depending on and feeling like a burden on other people, losing abilities, losing the respect of self and others ("loss of dignity"), and shame over incontinence.

Prominent bioethicist Thaddeus Pope concedes that "Everybody who's using medical aid in dying is disabled. And probably you could go to the next step and say the reason they want medical aid in dying is because of their disability." To Pope, any disability a patient finds "personally intolerable" is sufficient reason to assist their suicide.

In Massachusetts, assisted suicide bills have been put forward every session for the last 20 years. Proponents proclaim strong public support for the measure, but that support is shallow. In the weeks leading up to the 2012 ballot question on assisted suicide, polls showed 68% support. The ballot question lost, 51%-49%. Now supporters say that 77% of Massachusetts residents support the bill, based on a poll question seeking compassion for terminally ill people "to end their suffering," with its implication of physical pain.

State House Speaker Ron Mariano declared "We have a very divided House of Representatives. There's not a 77 percent affirmative vote in the House right now."

With the end of the legislative session on July 31, the bill died.

Disability rights advocates appreciate the willingness of many legislators to take our concerns seriously. We worry, with death reframed as a benefit for severely disabled people, that increased legalization will bring expansion of eligibility. Pope points out that the US is unique in the world for limiting assisted suicide to terminal people, and that every

## Quincy Youth Enjoy Day Trip To Spectacle Island

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north drumlin for the spectacular views of the harbor. However, when the weather is hot and the tide is high they just can't wait to hit the water.

To beat the heat, some kids swam in the clean, cool water of Boston Harbor under the watchful supervision of four DCR's lifeguards. Others caught crabs and fish from the pier or searched for the "Treasures of Spectacle Island" with Save the Harbors program staff, collecting shells and sea glass, which they shared with each other before returning them to the beach where they belong

"Our free programs give kids and families who

might not otherwise have a chance the opportunity to experience these beautiful natural resources firsthand," said Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Executive Director Chris Mancini. "We are proud to share our spectacular harbor, beaches and islands with them."

According to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Director of Development Patricia Salic, "The work Save the Harbor/Save the Bay does would not be possible without the support of our 2022 Youth Program sponsors, including Bay State Cruise Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, The Coca-Cola Company, Department of Conservation and Recreation, East-

ern Salt Company, Inc., Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Harpoon Brewery, JetBlue, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, National Grid, Richard M. Saltonstall Charitable Foundation, Alexandria, The Boston Foundation, Boston Properties - Atlantic Wharf, Camp Harbor View Foundation, Cell Signaling Technology, City of Boston Department of Youth, Engagement & Employment, Comcast Foundation, Cronin Group, LLC, Exelon Generation, Goody Clancy, Hood Business Park, HYM Investment Group, Income Research and Management Charitable Fund, John Hancock Financial Services, Leader

Bank Pavilion/Live Nation, Maine Community Foundation, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, National Development, National Grid Foundation." You can find a full list of Save the Harbor's 2022 Youth Program Funders at <http://blog.savetheharbor.org/2022/07/thanks-to-our-2022-youth-program.html>

To find out more about Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the work they do to restore, protect and share Boston Harbor, the Harbor Islands and the region's public beaches, visit their website at [www.savetheharbor.org](http://www.savetheharbor.org), their blog "Sea, Sand & Sky" at <http://blog.savetheharbor.org> or follow savetheharbor on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

John B. Kelly is the director of Second Thoughts MA.

The answer is to address people's real needs. That means a fully funded Medicare home care benefit to reduce burden and keep people out of nursing homes. It means more and better palliative care. And for people whose discomfort cannot be otherwise relieved, there is the option of palliative sedation, whereby a person is sedated to the point of comfort while the dying process takes place.

The answer is not medically assisted suicide. We disabled people demand full civil and human rights, equal protection under the law, equal suicide prevention, and more respect throughout society.

John B. Kelly is the director of Second Thoughts MA.

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