

The Passy Press

Letter to the Editor

From: allison.gratz.jim@undisclosed.com

To: Nick Gardiner enpg@thepassypress.com

Date: December 28, 2014 8:01 p.m. EST

Subject: Essay on Death With Dignity by Charles Hamlin, MD

Dear Sir,

Dr. Hamlin's essay prompts this reply:

I remember the Sunday afternoon of twenty years ago, about this time of year, when my father called me from his home in Hereford and asked me to come and take all of his guns away. As an avid bird hunter and excellent marksman he owned quite a collection of shotguns and rifles as well as several pistols, some of which were considered as self defense alternatives and always loaded, ready for action. I had never considered until that afternoon that he might be thinking of using one of those weapons against himself, but I did know that his despair concerning his growing dementia had become at times almost unbearable. Nevertheless, his summons to me was one of courage and integrity and I realized that he had decided to ride it out until the end. And he did, with the assistance of extraordinary hospice care. If I am ever faced with the same situation, I pray that his example will not be squandered.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Allison

James Allison presently resides in Amarillo and has a BA from Austin College in Sherman, Texas and graduated from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU. He is retired and was President & CEO of the Amarillo Area Foundation and The Don&Sybil Harrington Foundation for 22 years. Prior to that he was in the banking business.