

Activist got \$10,000 for Schiavo work

By **Etan Horowitz, Sentinel Staff Writer**

ORLANDO SENTINEL

AUGUST 10, 2006

State Senate candidate Randall Terry earned \$10,000 last year for roughly two months of work as the spokesman for Terri Schiavo's family, according to a financial-disclosure form filed with the state Division of Elections.

Terry, the anti-abortion activist who is trying to unseat veteran legislator Jim King of Jacksonville in the Sept. 5 Republican primary, defends the payments, saying he was worth every penny as he tried to keep the brain-damaged woman alive. He was paid by the Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation, a St. Petersburg-based nonprofit set up by Schiavo's parents and siblings.

"My services were worth the investment," Terry said, adding that he also helped plan the family's media strategy. "I would have done it for free in a heartbeat."

In 2003, when Schiavo's feeding tube was first removed and then reinserted after the [Florida Legislature](#) passed "Terri's Law," Terry says he was an unpaid adviser.

The family offered to pay him last year, and he accepted because he was a college student and needed the money, he said.

Terry's financial-disclosure form shows that his only other source of income in 2005 was \$4,545 that he was paid as president of the Society for Truth and Justice, a St. Augustine-based advocacy group. This year he was awarded a bachelor's degree in communications from the State University of New York's Empire State College, he said.

A spokeswoman for King said King was aware last year that Terry was being paid, though it was not widely known at the time.

"The fact that he was paid to do it will raise and does raise some interest as far as his motivations," said Sarah Bascom, King's campaign spokeswoman. "As far as being a paid spokesperson as opposed to doing all of this just as an impassioned advocate."

Gov. Jeb Bush's office did not respond to requests Wednesday for comment about the payment to Terry.

King had supported Terri's Law in 2003 but later called it one of the worst votes he ever cast.

Support Quality Journalism
Subscribe for only 99¢

START NOW ›

legislative efforts to reinsert Schiavo's feeding
1, there would be "hell to pay."

Terry has tried to distinguish himself as more than a one-issue candidate, but the Schiavo case keeps coming up. Gov. Bush, who spearheaded efforts to reinsert Schiavo's feeding tube, endorsed King and said of Terry's role last year: "Randall Terry during that period of time and afterward made no positive contribution as it related to the issues related to Terri Schiavo. None."

Schiavo's brother, Bobby Schindler, who has campaigned with Terry, said Terry was instrumental in getting his sister's feeding tube reinserted in 2003. Schindler also said his entire family supports Terry's campaign.

The state Senate district stretches from north of Jacksonville to Daytona Beach.

Copyright © 2020, Orlando Sentinel

This article is related to: [Florida Legislature](#)

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/os-xpm-2006-08-10-terry10-story.html>

Support Quality Journalism
Subscribe for only 99¢

START NOW ›