

On April 16, 2017, my beloved wife, Moregan Zale passed away.

We had been together 36 years, and her death left a hole in my heart.

She had been diagnosed with Ovarian cancer in January of 2010. In July of 2016, we were told that it had spread and she had 3-8 months to live. She was at peace with dying, even happy with a death sentence, because she had suffered from several other conditions, and her quality of life was low.

She did not die of natural causes. She took her own life by VSED,

Voluntary stopping eating and drinking. She chose this course because she thought it was the only way left for her.

She had tried to OD in October, on a mixture of drugs and alcohol. After one of the saddest nights in my life, she was alive in the morning. I made her promise not to try any other methods that might leave her brain damaged but not dead.

She would have loved to go to VT to take advantage of their right-to -die law. But her mental and physical conditions ruled that out.

Watching her die of VSED, first at home and then at hospice, was one of the hardest things I have done. She lasted for 23 days without water or food. Seeing someone shrivel up and die of

thirst is inhumane, but it was her wish, and I respected her decision, though it tortured me. She was a very strong willed woman.

I told everyone I met at hospice, that I would be the first to testify when a right-to-die law came up in CT. Moregan wanted that law badly.

We treat animals in this country better at the end of their lives than we do humans.

Please help change that.

PJ Schimmel