

PNC BANK PNC BANK  
More than 2,500 branch locations by the end of 2010

# MAN DIES IN FAST ALLOWED BY COURT

AP  
Published: February 5, 1984

An 85- year-old retired college president who a state court said had the right to starve himself to death has died, the family's attorney said today.

The daughter of the man - whose identity has remained secret - spent an hour with him before he died late Friday night, the attorney, Frank Clark, said in a statement.

The man, who was said to have been depressed over a series of illnesses, had been fasting at a nursing home here for 47 days, since last Dec. 21.

In a ruling Thursday, Justice Donald H. Miller of State Supreme Court in Syracuse ruled that nothing should be done to prevent the patient's death unless the man changed his mind. He also ruled that the nursing home, the Plaza Health and Rehabilitation Center, had neither the obligation nor the right to force-feed the patient. Confined to Wheelchair

The ruling came in an action brought by the nursing home, where the man had been a patient since earlier in the year. He has been confined to a wheelchair in recent months and suffers from a variety of ailments, including heart disease, arthritis and hardening of the arteries. His wife died in 1980.

Justice Miller said he had based his ruling on First Amendment rights of privacy and on a state public health law that allows patients knowingly to refuse medically necessary treatment.

The judge had ordered that the man's name be kept secret to protect his privacy. Tonight, Mr. Clark, the attorney, said the family would have no further comment.

The case had stirred wide interest, and on Friday, Governor Cuomo asked that a special advisory group review the ruling.

The patient's daughter said her father had been a prominent electrical engineer and college president who had served as a United States trade representative on technological matters to India and France. Mr. Clark said no funeral arrangements had been made.

SIGN IN TO RECOMMEND

TWITTER

E-MAIL

SEND TO PHONE

PRINT

REPRINTS

SHARE

## Breaking News Alerts by E-Mail

Sign up to be notified w hen important news breaks.

Sign Up

Privacy Policy

Ads by Google what's this?

**Covidien Healthcare**  
Covidien Is At The Forefront Of Education & Research Worldwide.  
www.Covidien.com

**Broadview Security™**  
Trust Broadview Security The New Brink's Home Security  
BroadviewSecurity-Home.com

**Fear No Man**  
Discover What The Martial Artists & The Army Don't Want You To Know  
www.CloseCombatTraining.com

**Home Security Companies**  
Research Home Security Companies Prices, Suppliers, & Buying Advice.  
www.HomeSecurityComparison.com

**Coffee Fool**  
Over 200 reasons you too may want to become a Coffee Fool!  
www.CoffeeFool.com

**Houston Security System**  
Protect Your Family With A Home Security System. Find Services Now!  
www.YellowPages.com/Houston

Advertise on NYTimes.com

## MOST POPULAR

E-MAILED | BLOGGED

1. **Small-Business Guide: How to Market Your Business With Facebook**
2. **Well: Phys Ed: The Best Exercises for Healthy Bones**
3. **Skin Deep: Breast-Feed the Baby, Love the Calorie Burn**
4. **Vital Signs: Nutrition: Chocolate Milk May Reduce Inflammation**
5. **Nicholas D. Kristof: America's Defining Choice**
6. **Job Woes Exacting a Toll on Family Life**
7. **Timothy Egan: The Betrayal**
8. **Dress Codes: This Just in From the 1890s**
9. **Maureen Dowd: Virtuous Bankers? Really!?!**
10. **The Anguish of War for Today's Soldiers, Explored by Sophocles**

Go to Complete List »

RELATED ADS

what are related ads?

» Volunteer Missions

Ads by Google

what's this?

**Coffee Fool.com**  
Let us serve your taste buds the foolish fun that they deserve!  
www.CoffeeFool.com

**3 Veggies for Flat Belly:**  
Unusual article about veggies that help to burn abdominal fat.  
TruthAboutAbs.com/fat-burning-veg

**Reverse Loan Calculator**

Try Our Free Calculator Today, Find Out How Much You Qualify For Now!  
www.ReverseMortgageAdviser.com

- » International Volunteer
- » Volunteer Tracking
- » Plant a Tree Volunteer
- » Volunteer Opportunities

**INSIDE NYTIMES.COM**



HOME & GARDEN »



Window Watchers in a City of Strangers

ART & DESIGN »



Modern Lines for the Eternal City

OPINION »

### Editorial: More Foreclosures

Unless the Obama ant foreclosure plan is modified, it has little chance of making a meaningful dent in the housing crisis.

FASHION & STYLE »



Breast-feed the Baby, Love the Calorie Burn

OPINION »



Op-Ed: Trading Women's Rights for Political Power

GIVING »



New Fame for the Everyday Donor