

head and say that she had so many relatives and loved ones that she could not remember them all by name. She would simply look you in your eyes and say, "You know your name." Those beloved names include her devoted Daughter Earlene Dye, her loving sister Juanita Redmond, 11 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and 15 great-great-grandchildren, a great number of relatives and friends and members of her extended church family.

The end is in the beginning and lies far ahead.—Ralph Ellison.

HONORING MS. BARBARA WAGNER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor Ms. Barbara Wagner. Ms. Wagner is being honored by the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus with the prestigious title of 'Artistic Director Emeritus'.

Ms. Wagner was the founding artistic director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. She helped found the group in 2001 and conducted their first meeting on September 11th. Although this day was tragic to all Americans, this group was able to find solace during their first rehearsal. Ms. Wagner bound the newly formed choir with the song "How Can I Keep From Singing," which would then go on to be performed at every concert and rehearsal for her 10 year tenure and beyond.

While the choir was under Ms. Wagner's leadership, the Buffalo Gay Men's Choir received numerous awards, and performed on some of the grandest stages in Buffalo. With Ms. Wagner's direction the BGMC received multiple "Best in Buffalo" Awards from the local *Artvoice* newspaper, and was recognized by the Empire State Pride Agenda in 2005 for excellence in music and dedication to the community. Ms. Wagner led the choir to receive the prestigious Buffalo and Erie County Arts Council Award for exceptional contributions to the arts and cultural community in Western New York. Under Ms. Wagner's leadership the choir performed at the historic Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo, and alongside the renowned Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ms. Barbara Wagner's commitment to The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is to be recognized with the distinguished title of 'Artistic Director Emeritus', during a special ceremony in their upcoming concert. I ask today, Mr. Speaker, that we honor her dedication to the arts and successes as choir director.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BE-
LOVED RODNEY ROLLO

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved Rodney Rollo. Rodney was a true patriot, and he will be greatly missed.

Rodney was born in Pensacola, Florida and raised in neighboring Santa Rosa County,

Florida. After graduating from Milton High School, Rodney answered the call of duty, enlisting in the United States Navy in 1947. After serving 20 years with honor and distinction, Rodney retired from the Navy in 1967 as a Chief Hospital Corpsman and moved to Washington D.C., where he worked as Chief of Administrative Services for the American Psychiatric Association. However, as with so many others born and raised along the Gulf Coast, Rodney returned to his hometown in 1975, and he and his wife, Ann settled in Milton.

Rodney was a proud lifelong Republican, and after moving back to Northwest Florida, he quickly immersed himself in local politics, becoming a leader in civil society. Rodney and Ann joined the Santa Rosa County Republican Executive Committee, and, with an unwavering commitment to advancing the conservative principles upon which our country was founded, they worked tirelessly to register Republicans across Santa Rosa County. In just over a decade, Rodney and Ann's efforts helped triple the number of registered Republicans in the county, and soon thereafter, every county elective office was held by a Republican. Rodney's leadership was recognized on many occasions, as he served multiple terms as Chairman of the Santa Rosa County Republican Executive Committee.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and service of Rodney Rollo. He was a loving husband, patriot, and defender of freedom, and his immense contributions to Northwest Florida will be felt for years to come. My wife Vicki and I extend our deepest condolences and prayers to his sister, Betty Rollo Wolfe; nieces and nephews: Janet (Larry) Chambers, Tom (Sue) Palmer, Jeannie Cotton, Sam (Nancy) Palmer, John Palmer, Rebecca (Doug) Griener, and Sandra Clark, and the entire Rollo family.

THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE U.S.
BISHOPS IN MORAL QUESTIONS
REGARDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently hosted a briefing entitled *Catholic Engagement on Nuclear Disarmament: What are the moral questions?* and one of the speakers, Dr. Stephen M. Colecchi, presented the following statement:

At the time of Senate ratification of the New START Treaty in 2010, Cardinal Francis George, OMI, then President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, whose death we recently mourned, declared: "The horribly destructive capacity of nuclear arms makes them disproportionate and indiscriminate weapons that endanger human life and dignity like no other armaments. Their use as a weapon of war is rejected in Church teaching based on just war norms."

The Cardinal was standing on a firm foundation of longstanding teaching when he made that assertion. The 1983 pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace," established the U.S. Catholic bishops as a moral voice on nuclear disarmament. The bishops argued that "each proposed addition to our strategic system or change in strategic doctrine must be

assessed precisely in light of whether it will render steps toward 'progressive disarmament' more or less likely."

Ten years later in the "Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace," the bishops declared: "The eventual elimination of nuclear weapons is more than a moral ideal; it should be a policy goal." This vision continues to shape their public engagement.

At the time of the drafting of the 1983 pastoral, I worked as a religious educator and was active in efforts to engage Catholics in discussions of the various drafts of the peace pastoral. The process of producing this document was significant. The bishops actively solicited feedback from both experts and people in the pew on each of three drafts. The bishops remained the teachers, but they acknowledged that prudential judgments were also involved and this required dialogue.

Consultations were held at the national and local levels, and in many settings, at universities, parishes and think tanks. These dialogues helped shape the final pastoral letter, but perhaps more importantly they also raised awareness of the fundamental issues related to nuclear weapons among many Americans. Today the Conference of Bishops is working with others to revitalize Catholic thinking and engagement on issues involving nuclear weapons today as decades have passed since they first became involved with this issue in a major way.

Over the years, in light of Church moral teaching, the bishops have also exercised leadership regarding specific elements of U.S. nuclear policy. In the late 80s they raised moral questions regarding missile defense initiatives. The bishops supported the Strategic Arms Reduction treaties (Start I and II) in the early 1990s. And in the late 90s they supported the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, lamenting its defeat in the Senate. The bishops welcomed the 2002 Moscow Treaty as a positive step, but called on the United States, and by implication other nations, to do much more.

During the past decade, the Conference of Bishops has opposed federal funding for research on the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, the Reliable Replacement Warhead and new nuclear weapons. They weighed in on the Nuclear Posture Review, asking President Obama to narrow the purpose of the nuclear arsenal solely to deterring nuclear attack. They made a major effort to offer vigorous support for Senate ratification of the New START Treaty in 2010, and have supported and welcomed the P5+1 dialogue with Iran over their nuclear program, as has the Holy Father and the Holy See.

At its Deterrence Symposium in July 2009, the U.S. Strategic Command turned to the Conference of Bishops to offer moral reflections. Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, then an Archbishop and a member of the bishops' International Committee, gave a major address on "Nuclear Weapons and Moral Questions: The Path to Zero." He urged the nuclear powers to "move beyond" deterrence. Subsequently, he joined Global Zero and addressed their February 2010 summit in Paris.

In his speech at the 2009 Deterrence Symposium, Cardinal O'Brien reiterated the longstanding position of the U.S. bishops: "The moral end is clear: a world free of the threat of nuclear weapons. This goal should guide our efforts. Every nuclear weapons system and every nuclear weapons policy should be judged by the ultimate goal of protecting human life and dignity and the related goal of ridding the world of these weapons in mutually verifiable ways."

U.S. Church leaders are not naive about the challenges that lie along the path to a world without nuclear weapons. Cardinal Francis George wrote a letter to President