

"Blessed are the poor in spirit . . .
they who mourn . . .
the meek . . .
they who hunger and thirst for righteous-
ness . . .
the merciful . . .
the clean of heart . . .
the peacemakers . . .
they who are persecuted for righteousness'
sake . . ."

Can we not see how the Honorable Peter Rodino implemented these texts in his life? Is it an accident that countless immigrants were given hope and a new start in a land of opportunity because of legislation he sponsored to remove unfair quotas? Is it a coincidence that this man of integrity evolved to serve a new constituency in his district in the 1960s, that he became a champion of civil rights and voting rights for all citizens regardless of race, color or creed, identifying himself with the persecuted and those hungering and thirsting for righteousness? Was he reciting St. Francis to himself and remembering the Beatitudes when he took part in disarmament conferences and the stability and security efforts of the parliamentary arm of NATO? "Make me an instrument of your peace. . ."

In his recent volume, *Ordinary Heroes and American Democracy*, Gerald M. Pomper, in the chapter "Peter Rodino: A hero of the House," writes, "Our concept of the democratic hero looks for heroism among ordinary people doing their customary work in the moments of crisis." He dubs Peter Rodino a "workhorse" of the U.S. House of Representatives, and reminds us of the messiness with which the work of democracy proceeds in that body, by compromise, consensus-building, careful and dexterous application of the rules.

I would like to suggest that Peter Rodino is also an ordinary hero of his faith. Like the character in *The West Wing*, he eschewed a flamboyant, pretentious, self-conscious politician's instrumentalization of religious practice, which threatens democracy with theocracy. Instead, to paraphrase the prophet Micah, he knew the right, he did the right and he walked humbly with his God.

The Catholic funeral liturgy is a celebration of hope. Four days before his death, Congressman Rodino sat in his recliner chair when I visited him. His breathing was labored and he struggled to stay awake. At one point he forced his eyes wide open and asked, "What's the world situation?" Sure I had heard wrong, I began naming a number of comfort items I supposed he was wanting: Water? Juice? Another blanket? "Do you want me to get Joy?" I asked. "The world!" he reiterated, certainly annoyed with my narrow focus on conveniences. "Tell me about the world. What's happening?" This man was not leaving this life, this world that had held him in endless fascination, one moment sooner than he absolutely had to.

Nor is he absent from us now. The Honorable Peter W. Rodino, Jr., is heir to the promise made to all who are baptized into Christ, of life unending with his Creator. May his be the blessings of a liberty far greater than we now know how to ask for or imagine. With St. Francis we conclude, "For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

By Rev. Nicholas S. Gengaro
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KEEP THAT GOOD HEART: THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF CONGRESSMAN PETER W. RODINO
(By Paula A. Franzese, Peter W. Rodino Professor of Law, Seton Hall Law School; Prof. Franzese Delivered the Eulogy at Cong. Rodino's Funeral on May 16, 2005)

The last words spoken to me by my beloved mentor and friend, Cong. Peter W. Ro-

dino, just days before his passing, were: "Keep that good heart." In those four words we find the measure of the man and the magnitude of his legacy. Keep that good heart, mindful that there will be many temptations to do otherwise. This life can be a vessel of sadness, but even in the face of all disenchantment and cynicism and disappointment, still, keep that good heart.

Peter asked us to be relentless in our capacity to anchor ourselves in love, in compassion, in humility, in virtue, no matter the adversity, no matter the turmoil, no matter the naysayers. We live in a world that finds itself preoccupied with glamour and status and fortune and fame. Yet, here is this iconic public figure, who walked with kings and held the hand of a nation as he navigated the way out of a constitutional crisis of unparalleled dimension, this luminary and dignitary, this man of the House, who valued, above all else, goodness of heart. He respected intelligence, and he was brilliant, but he respected kindness even more.

And so it was, with great love, that this humble boy from Newark, the son of a carpenter and the child of Italian immigrants, moved mountains. His illustrious career in the House of Representatives began in 1948, and spanned four decades. Always, he ran on his own terms, never beholden to anyone or anything. He sought public office as a politician in the highest and best sense of the word. He was a champion of the underdog, a spokesman for those without a voice. It has been said that the principal cause of human suffering is forgetfulness. Peter never forgot who he was, what he stood for or where he came from.

John Henry Newman wrote, "I sought to hear the voice of God, and climbed the top-most steeple. But God declared, 'Go down again. I dwell among the people.'" Peter Rodino heard the voice of God in the voices of the people. And there, he found the courage to do what needed to be done. He came to the House to accomplish civil rights reform, to redress the inequities of the nation's immigration laws and to promote equal access to justice for all. And so he did.

Quietly, during a time when such an agenda for reform was fiercely unpopular, he worked relentlessly, securing a seat on the House Judiciary Committee and serving as a key lieutenant whose work in the trenches, on the floor of the House, helped to secure the passage of virtually every major civil rights bill, including the watershed Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham, Alabama contains the historic photograph of President Lyndon B. Johnson signing that landmark legislation into law, flanked by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. to his left and Congressman Peter Rodino to his right.

Peter Rodino was a champion for the cause of civil rights and civil liberties because he chose to be a man for all people, irrespective of race, class, gender or ethnic origin. It is no accident that, until his last days on Earth, he carried in his pocket a tattered copy of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. The Preamble begins with the words, "We the people." It holds out the promise that the blessings of liberty belong not just to some of us, but to all of us.

And so it was that this great patriot had a date with destiny. In 1974, as a country on the brink of a constitutional impasse waited, and this fourteen year old sat transfixed in front of the TV set, the Watergate hearings began, and we found a hero. In Peter Rodino, humility met preparation, and that boy from Barringer High School, who had dedicated a lifetime to the cause of fundamental fairness and equal justice under law, accepted the challenge.

We watched as the gentleman from Newark, carrying the weight of a nation's suf-

fering on his shoulders, stood firm and dignified and tall, never wavering from his reverence for the office of the presidency and never departing from his conviction that our great democracy would withstand, indeed, transcend, this greatest test.

Because of him, it did. And because of him, we did. In the process, Peter Rodino gave us all something that we so desperately needed. He gave us hope. Timothy White wrote, "Historically, certain figures emerge from despairing cultures to reinterpret old symbols and beliefs and invest them with new meaning. An individual's decision to play such a role may be purely unconscious, but it can sometimes evolve into an acute awareness that he or she may indeed have the gift, as well as the burden, of prophecy." Peter Rodino was such a figure. Sen. Ted Kennedy, in sending his condolences, said: "Many of us felt as we watched the Watergate hearings that we were seeing a founding father in action, living the highest ideals of the Constitution. I'm sure my brother would have called him a profile in courage. I feel the same way, and I'll never forget him."

When all is said and done, none of us will ever forget Peter Rodino, because of the way that he made us feel. His life bears living witness to the greatness of our nation. His story reminds us that we live in a world of infinite possibilities, and that there is a force that meets good with good. We watched, and we knew. Here was a gifted leader who was, first and foremost, a good person. It is a testament to the man that, when the vote to impeach was rendered, rather than grandstand or resort to petty partisanship, he retreated to his private chambers and he wept. Always, he kept that good heart.

Peter spoke to our community just months ago, at Seton Hall Law School's Rodino Dinner, where he urged us all to live a life that matters. What will matter, he said, is not your success, but your significance; not what you bought but what you built. Implicit in all that he stood for is the premise that people can be mean and cruel and irresponsible, but it is up to us to love them anyway. If you commit to goodness and to compassionate honesty in a world fraught with too much brutal honesty, you may be accused of insincerity or of building pies in the sky. But commit to the virtuous path anyway. And if you dare to believe in the majesty of your dreams, so that you do what you can with what you have, your heart may sometimes break. But a broken heart has more room.

Peter, today we bask in the glow of your magnificent heart. And although our own hearts ache because your days on Earth have come to an end, we know that the angels rejoiced as they welcomed you home. We know that you must have received the most extraordinary standing ovation of all time, amidst the resounding cheers and the tears of joy, all proclaiming: "Well done, Mr. Chairman, well done."

TRIBUTE TO FOX MCKEITHEN

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I commemorate the life of Louisiana's late secretary of state Fox McKeithen. Fox passed away Saturday at only 58 years of age.

Born Walter Fox McKeithen in 1946, Fox was destined for a life in public office. His father, John McKeithen, served as the Governor of Louisiana from 1964 to 1972. And Fox demonstrated his natural leadership ability at a young age, serving as senior class president and becoming a three-sport

Letterman at Caldwell Parish High School.

He received a bachelor's degree in history/social studies from Louisiana Tech University and then became a civics teacher and coach at Caldwell Parish High School. In addition to teaching and his career in state office, Fox established three successful businesses in Caldwell Parish.

In 1983, Fox began his long career as a public servant when he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives. He was elected secretary of state in 1987, and he served in this capacity for five consecutive terms, being elected to his fifth term in November 2003.

As secretary of state for nearly two decades, Fox showed great dedication and devotion to the State of Louisiana. One of his biggest accomplishments was successfully merging the department of voter registration and the department which stored the voting machines, consolidating them into one. This had not been done in Louisiana since 1960.

Fox simplified the functions of the secretary of state's office. He adapted to the changing technologies that took place over his five terms and modernized the office through computerized voting terminals and archiving.

He was also responsible for the renovation of the State capitol building in Baton Rouge. Fox took the lead in helping bring a building that once was in shambles and abandoned back to its former stateliness and glory. Because of Fox's efforts, the capitol building gives all who visit and work there a taste of Louisiana's political history.

Fox had a very colorful personality, a trait often described by so many. His vivaciousness and energy for life drew people to him. Once, he even broke out into song at a press conference.

Those who served with Fox knew his commitment to the office of secretary of state. This was especially apparent in a 2004 election, when he delivered voting machines to New Orleans precincts himself, ensuring that everyone was able to vote and averting a potential crisis.

Fox was a friend to all, and the State of Louisiana will miss him dearly. He leaves behind a loving wife, Yvonne, and their four children, Marjorie Ann, Marianne May, Rebecca Ann, and John Jesse.

Fox and his family are in our prayers and thoughts.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING THE GARRETT FAMILY

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Heath and Lee Garrett on the birth of their second child.

William Heath Garrett was welcomed into this world at 4:45 p.m. on July 6th, 2005, weighing 7 pounds and measuring 19 inches.

Little William Heath was named after his father and joins big sister Martha "Mattie" Lee, who will turn 3 in October 2005, as the newest addition to the Garrett family.

Since his graduation from the University Of Georgia School of Law, Heath Garrett has been a trusted advisor as well as an honored friend. He served as my policy advisor on the Georgia Board of Education and served as my chief of staff in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1999 through 2004. He came with me this year to the U.S. Senate where he continues to serve ably as my chief of staff.

I congratulate Heath and Lee Garrett on the newest addition to their family and wish them years of continued health and happiness.●

HONORING THE CITY OF POLLOCK, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and publicly acknowledge the 50th anniversary of Pollock, SD, a small community nestled on the eastern bluffs of the Missouri River marking the divide between eastern and western South Dakota.

Located in northern Campbell County, Pollock's history is a bit different from most other South Dakota towns, due to its relocation in the 1950s. The town was originally formed in the mid-1880s under the name LaGrace, having been named after Mrs. Grace Fisk of Huron, SD. The town's name was changed to Pollock in 1901 to honor R.Y. Pollock, a pioneer lay minister and respected citizen. Although the first town of Pollock was platted in 1901, the present community was not established until 1955. Interestingly, "new" Pollock celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, yet 4 years ago, in 2001, residents commemorated "old" Pollock's 100th anniversary.

The original town was actually a combination of two river towns, LaGrace and Vanderbilt. The cities merged in 1901 and many buildings from surrounding communities were brought in. As a result, Pollock grew rapidly, and within months boasted a post office, grocery store, flour and feed store, three saloons, a butcher, a blacksmith, a pool hall, a hardware store, and a printer.

Like most young communities in the Dakotas, Pollock was not without its share of tragedy and hardship. In August of 1911, a fire broke out, destroying a large portion of the business district. Additionally, "old" Pollock was prone to flooding, as Spring Creek often overflowed during heavy rains. Still, despite these setbacks, Pollock's resilient residents always rebounded and rebuilt, which is a testimony to South Dakotans' legendary pioneer spirit.

Until the early 1950s, Pollock's history was very much like most other South Dakota towns; however, that drastically changed in 1952, when the Army Corps of Engineers informed resi-

dents of its decision to build a dam on the Missouri River near Pierre. Although Pierre and Pollock are miles apart, the proposal also entailed flooding the entire town of Pollock and converting it into Lake Pocasse. Soon after learning of the Corps of Engineers' plan, residents formed the Pollock Flood Association, a committee designed to organize the public and help plan for the flood. The committee held a town meeting in January of 1953, and residents unanimously decided to move the town to a new location, which they eventually determined would be the area referred to as "the old golf course." In order to purchase the land, the community created a non-profit corporation to buy and subdivide the property into individual lots. Subsequently, town members looked at a map of the various plots, selected the site they wanted, and placed their desired lot number in an envelope. During the drawing, surprisingly, there were only two or three instances of multiple families choosing the same piece of land, and in those cases, a coin was flipped to determine the lucky owner. The Corps of Engineers then purchased people's "old" Pollock property on behalf of the government, and residents were given the opportunity to buy back their house for 12 cents to the dollar and move the building to the new site. "New" Pollock's groundbreaking ceremony was held June 4, 1955, thus ultimately marking the birth of present-day Pollock, SD.

Although transporting houses and other buildings was difficult, it paled in comparison to the railroad official's task of relocating the Minneapolis St. Paul and Sault Saint Marie Railroad, known as the Soo Line. The move involved constructing 5 miles of new grade and track, in addition to building a new engine house and relocating the depot. In mid-October of 1960, the task was complete and the first train arrived in Pollock to a large crowd of spectators. Despite the railroad's painstaking efforts to keep the trains accessible, its popularity began to decline shortly after the move. In 1987, the Soo Line route from Ashley, ND, to Pollock was abandoned, and the track was removed in 1988.

In 1956, E.L. MacKay founded the Pollock Pioneer, the town's first newspaper. MacKay recorded the growth of the new community, and actually coined Pollock's motto, "A city built on a hill cannot be hid," when he used it as a byline for an article. To this day, the Pollock Pioneer continues to provide residents with accurate and reliable news coverage.

One of Pollock's notable attractions is its 60 acre City Park. Designed by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks, in conjunction with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the recreation area is situated between the town and the waterfront. Year after year, City Park is host to countless family picnics and outdoor