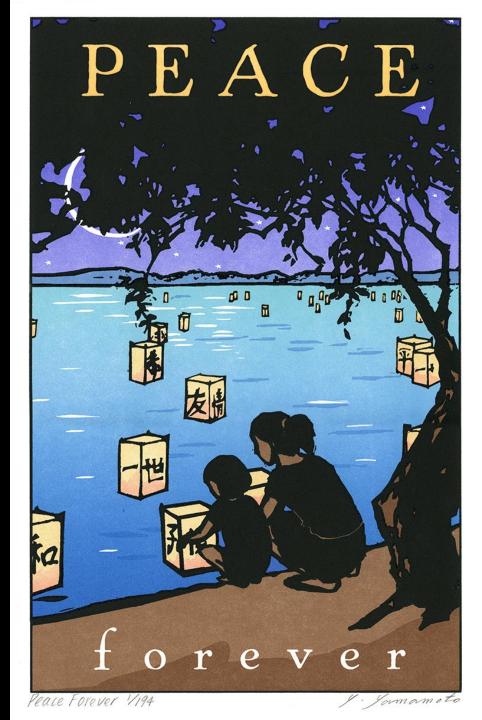
Hiroshima to Hope Memorial 2019

74 years after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

August 6, 1945 Hiroshima, Japan

August 9, 1945 Nagasaki, Japan



Esther "Little Dove" John, Emcee Hiroshima to Hope Memorial 2019







People float lanterns made to honor victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Lanterns floating on Green Lake 74 years after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki



Displays depicted the devastation of the atomic bombs dropped in Japan and killing over 200,000 innocent victims. With time and space, it is easy to forget the past.

We must not forget, lest we resort to such drastic measures at some point in the future. It is troubling to note that on August 2, 2019, the US withdrew from a key nuclear treaty with Russia, raising fears of a new arms race. We remember Jesus' words to love our enemies and pray for them. We are called to consider what love can do in all situations.



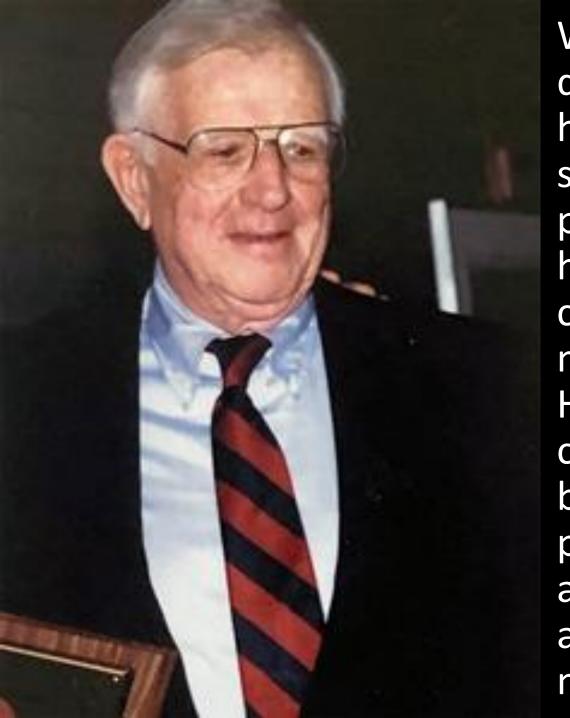


A cross lies in the ruins of the Urakami
Cathedral after the bombing of Nagasaki





Walter Hooke was a U.S. Marine when he arrived in Nagasaki in October 1945, about two months after the city's atomic bombing. During his stay, the devout Catholic was befriended by the bishop of Nagasaki, who gave him the cross.



Walter Hooke felt deep anguish at having this religious symbol in his possession and having survived a conflict that left so many people dead. He became publicly critical of the atomic bomb's use on civilian populations in Japan and was active in the anti-nuclear weapons movement.





After meeting the director at an event protesting nuclear weapons, Walter Hooke gave the cross to the Wilmington College Peace Resource Center in 1982 where it has remained on display until recently.

This spring, the Peace Resource Center made arrangements to return the cross to Nagasaki, Japan





Cross is returned to Urakami Cathedral, Nagasaki, Japan







Commemoration Mass at the Urakami Cathedral



Nancy McCormick with 108 Friendship Dolls





Friendship dolls were given to children in Japan





Rumi a survivor of the A Bomb received a doll of Hope

