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John P. Mullooly

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# *Linacre Quarterly* Award Presentation to Dennis Horan

by John P. Mullooly, M.D.

This year's presentation of the *Linacre Quarterly* Award is quite unique. First of all, it is the first time in the history of the award it is being presented to a lawyer. In these days, lawyers are not the most popular people among the medical profession, but they do have their redeeming qualities, and in this case, the winner of the award stands head and shoulders above most attorneys in his articulate defense of the medical ethics of the medical profession and of the innate rights of the individual.

His professional career was distinguished and effective in upholding basic principles from which we have all benefitted. His innumerable books, articles, briefs and speeches in the areas of abortion and euthanasia, defending the dignity and sacredness of human life, have earned him a place second to none in the right to life struggles these past 25 years.

The second area which makes this award presentation unique is that this presentation is being made posthumously for the first time. This recipient was called to his eternal reward during his sleep in 1988. While we all mourned his premature death and felt a great sense of loss, we also felt a great sense of joy that this gifted, loyal lawyer and Catholic was reunited with the Lord Whom he served so well.

Dennis Horan was a member of the *Linacre* editorial advisory board. In reviewing his curriculum vitae, I noted that he contributed seven articles to *Linacre* over the years. He graduated from St. Mel's High School and Loyola University Law School in Chicago. He was a leader in the Right to Life movement from its earliest days and used his skills both in and out of court in Right to Life issues. As founder of Americans United for Life, Dennis served as its president from 1978 to 1984. He argued before the Supreme Court in the early *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973 and I'm sure he must be rejoicing in heaven now to see how his efforts have been partially vindicated by the recent *Webster* decision.

The award today is being given to him in recognition of his prophetic article, "Hydration, Nutrition and Euthanasia: Legal Reflections on the Role of Church Teaching" which appeared in the November, 1988 *Linacre Quarterly*.

As Dennis looks down upon us, I would like to present this award to his wife and fellow attorney, Dolores Horan, who will accept it and say a few words to us.

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