



**Chaplain Report February 2024**  
**February is National Security and Americanism and Auxiliary Emergency Fund**

**The Four Chaplains**



**George L. Fox   Alexander D. Goode   Clark Poling   John P. Washington**

On February 3, 1943, four Army Chaplains – Father John P. Washington, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, and the Revs. George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling – gave up their life jackets on a sinking Army transport in the North Atlantic so that other might live.

In the early morning hours of February 3, 1943, the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen, and civilian workers. Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. SG-19 was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba, and Comanche.

Of the 902 soldiers, Navy armed guard, ship's crew and civilian passengers on board of the Dorchester, only 230 survived. They have told us of the chaplain's efforts to restore claim in a hopeless and chaotic situation, and how they were last seen at the ship's stern, arms linked in prayer.

The Four Chaplain's promoted interfaith cooperation and selfless service in individual. They encouraged selfless service in the tradition and to teach and promote interfaith understanding and cooperation among all peoples. "Unity without Uniformity".

It is customary to hold a ceremony in February. The Ceremony for Four Chaplains is in the Chaplains prayer book, here is the Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Guides/Prayer-Book>

If you know of someone who could benefit from a card or phone call, please let me know:  
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A posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, The Four Chaplains' Medal, was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President on January 18, 1961.  
It was never given before and will never be given again.