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UNITED WE STAND

Special points of interest:

- The Four Chaplains
Happy Holidays From your Executive Board



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National Patriotic Date for February - Past National President Jean Burlingame National Patriotic Instructor 2012-2013

February 3rd - The Four Chaplains of World War II.

For several years, I have attended services for the Four Chaplains of World War II and was honored to meet a couple of the survivors of the USAT Dorchester as they remembered their Chaplains. Today, scattered military bases and several American Legion posts hold annual remembrance services on or about February 3rd, the anniversary of their deaths. I hope you will check with your local American Legion Post and have the opportunity to attend one of the memorial services for the Four Chaplains of World War II. Their story follows.

The Four Chaplains, also sometimes referred to as the "Immortal Chaplains," were four United States Army Chaplains who gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel during the sinking of the troop ship USAT Dorchester on February 3, 1943, during World War II. The four men were relatively new chaplains, who all held the rank of First Lieutenant. Their backgrounds, personalities, and faiths were different. They met at the Army Chaplains School at Harvard University, where they prepared for assignments in the European theater, sailing on board USAT Dorchester to report to their new assignments. USAT Dorchester: The Dorchester left New York on January 23, 1943, en route to Greenland, carrying the four chaplains and approximately 900 others, as part of a convoy of three ships. The convoy was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba, and Comanche. During the early morning hours of February 3, 1943, at 12:55 am, the vessel was torpedoed by the German submarine U-223 off Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. A second torpedo followed the first, instantly killing 100 men in the hull of the ship. The torpedo knocked

out the Dorchester's electrical system, leaving the ship dark. The ship tilted at an unnatural angle as it began to sink rapidly; life jackets were tossed about in the darkness where no one would ever find them. Wounded men cried out in pain, frightened survivors screamed in terror, and all groped frantically in the darkness for exits they couldn't find. Somewhere in that living nightmare, four voices of calm began to speak words of comfort, seeking to bring order to panic and bedlam. The Chaplains sought to calm the men and organize an orderly evacuation of the ship, and helped guide wounded men to safety. As life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out before each man had one. All Four Chaplains began taking their own life jackets off and putting them on the men around them. Wounded and dying soldiers were ushered into eternity to the sounds of comforting words from men of God more intent on the needs of others, than in their own safety and survival. Somehow, by their valiant efforts, the Chaplains succeeded in getting many of the soldiers out of the hold and onto the Dorchester's slippery deck, where they were confronted by the cold winds blowing down from the arctic. Now, on deck, they found that their mission had not been fully accomplished. Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, reeling from the cold, headed back towards his cabin. "Where are you going?" a voice of calm in the sea of distress asked? "To get my gloves," Mahoney replied. "Here, take these," said Rabbi Goode as he handed a pair of gloves to the young officer who would never have survived the trip to his cabin and then back to safety. "I can't take those gloves," Ma-

honey replied. "Never mind," the Rabbi responded. "I have two pairs." Mahoney slipped the gloves over his hands and returned to the frigid deck, never stopping to ponder until later when he had reached safety, that there was no way Rabbi Goode would have been carrying a spare set of gloves. The Chaplains directed men to safety, helping as many men as they could into lifeboats and left them with parting words of encouragement. Together they sacrificed their last shred of hope for survival; to insure the survival of other men, most of them total strangers. Then time ran out. The Chaplains had done all they could for those who would survive, and nothing more could be done for the remaining . . . including themselves. They linked arms and, saying prayers and singing hymns, went down with the ship giving strength to others by their final valiant declaration of faith. According to some reports, survivors could hear different

languages mixed in the prayers of the chaplains, including Jewish prayers in Hebrew and Catholic prayers in Latin, each praying in his own way for the care of the men. Almost 700 died but the Cutters, Comanche and Escanaba rescued 230 men from the frigid waters that night. The Coast Guard Cutter Tampa was able to escort the other freighters to Greenland. As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. Continued pg. #5



GRAND STRAND BLUE STAR MOTHERS SC7

We hosted a party today for 27 children who parents or grandparents are either on active duty or are veterans. This is a picture of our mothers with Santa. We were assisted by the American Legion Auxiliary of Post 186 and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 10804, both from Little River, SC

Our chapter also packed and shipped 254 boxes - quite a feat for a chapter of 16 members. SC has had such a great year. Just proves you don't

have to have a large chapter to do large things. We have collected over \$10,000 this year with no major fundraising event, just the goodness of this community. The tote bags our volunteers continue to make out of uniforms, and two collection dates during the year at Wal-Mart with the JROTC cadets.

We also stopped asking the community for items but rather gave them a gallon zip lock bag with our list inside and asked them to fill the bag with items

on the list. Then when we went to pack, we just laid those pre-packed bags inside the boxes. Of course, some had to be rearranged so we did not send all hard candy, etc. but it was a great time-saver. We sent over 400 dozen home-baked cookies in our boxes courtesy of this wonderful community which we vacuumed sealed for freshness.

*Merry Christmas to you and yours
Anne Parker-National Treasurer*

You don't need to be a large chapter to do large things.



Ohio Chapter 10 "FOR THE TROOPS"

OH10 recently participated in the local Holiday Parade. Our float this year was inspired through our annual convention this past July. Angela Lashley, a Blue Star Mother and Singer/Composer presented a refreshing evening of entertainment at the Big Dipper festivities. As a result Chapter President, Rose Ann Elliott, purchased one of her cd's. The song "Blue Star in the Window" was the theme of the float. First, we contacted Angela for her permission to duplicate and represent her song, which she gladly gave. Then we contacted everyone we

could think of until we found a local



builder who built and donated the "house front" for our float. Next we located the silver garland, blue star

for the window, fireplace, tree with ornaments of our service members and packages with a red bow as mentioned in the song. We were able to have a true soldier on one side of our door with a mom and grandchildren waiting inside for his arrival. The float and our soldier received much praise. We passed out ink pens with our name and a flyer with the words to the song and our meeting information. We felt that this was truly representative of a Blue Star Mother at the holiday season. We encourage all of you to listen to the song.



BLUE STAR IN THE WINDOW

There's a green tree in the corner
Silver garland, round the door
There's a home fire burnin, with an amber glow

And a Blue Star in the window
There's a present wrapped and ready,
For Christmas mornin,
Tied by a mother's hand, in a big red bow
This is home to a soldier,

And so everyone will know,
She's got a blue star in her window,

On greyhounds bound for little
towns in America,
There are soldiers comin home for

the holidays,

To Christmas smells, to caroling,
and old church bells,
to homemade pie, and a teary eyed
mother's face...

Now there's a taxi in the driveway
She see's how much he's changed,
And here come the tears,

He's home sweet home her soldier,
And all the neighbors know, that's why
there's a blue star in her window.

BLUE STAR IN THE WINDOW
written by Angela Lashley BMI and Jane
Farrell ASCAP

*Wishing everyone blessings this
holiday season! Ohio Chapter 10*

Submitted by Rose Ann Elliott

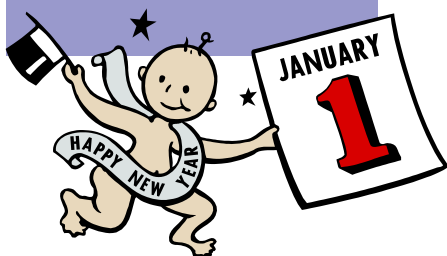


Long Island Blue Star Moms NY6 Spreading Christmas Cheer

Long Island Blue Star Moms NY6 teamed up with "Building Homes For Heros" and raised Ten Thousand dollars to help Captain James Byler USMC. Captain Byler was severely injured in Afghanistan. His family home was completely renovated and made handicap exccessable, with all the renovations complete. NY6 took it a step further, with the help of the Ladies Auxillary Post 803 in Southold. The Moms of NY6 were able to spread some Christmas Cheer to Captain Byler. We present-

ed him a crank cycle, fit for this proud warrior. The generosity among the community was overwhelming as each person who stepped up added their own special touches to the cycle. Captain Byler was so deeply touched by this loving gift and so amazed with the personel touches added onto his bike. It couldn't have all come together at a better time than the Christmas Holiday Season. This project of endowing these very special cycles to our injured veteran warriors in the Memory

of our fallen warriors, will continue each year. Captain Byler is the first recipient of the hand cycle, endowed to him in memory of Cpl. Jerome D. Ventura, USMC. It's a project Cyndi Ventura came up with after the loss of her oldest son. Evertime Captain Byler races or just rides for his own enjoyment, Jerry lives on and rides with him. L.I Blue Star Moms are looking forward to watching James (Captain Byler) participate in upcoming events. Merry Christmas Captain Byler,



Your National Executive Board wish for you and your families a wonderful Holiday Season as we all celebrate . May each and everyone of you be blessed in very special ways this Holiday Season. Happy New Year as we look forward to 2013, United We Stand.

THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

CONTINUED FROM COVER

The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the Four Chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets. —Grady Clark, survivor Said another survivor, "It was the finest thing I have ever seen this side of heaven." According to the First Sergeant on the ship. "They were always together, they carried their faith together. They demonstrated throughout the voyage and in their last moments, interfaith compassion in their relationship with the men and each other."

The four Chaplains were Father John Washington (Catholic), Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed), Rabbi Alexander Goode (Jewish) and Reverend George Fox (Methodist). They were each awarded a Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. These four Chaplains were later honored by Congress and Presidents. They were recognized for their selfless acts of courage, compassion and faith. In 1960 Congress created a special Congressional Medal of Valor, never to be repeated again, and gave it to the next of kin of the "Immortal Chaplains".



**Reverend
George L. Fox**



**Rabbi
Alexander D. Goode**



**Reverend
Clark V. Poling**



**Father
John P. Washington**

Reverend George L. Fox: Born 3/15/1900
Joined the Army 7/24/1942
Died 2/3/43

Rabbi Alexander D. Goode: Born 5/10/1911
Joined the Army 7/21/1942
Died 2/3/1943

Reverend Clark V. Poling: Born 8/7/1910
Joined the Army 6/10/1942
Died 2/3/1943

Father John P. Washington: Born 7/18/1908
Joined the Army 5/9/1942
Died 2/3/1943