

**AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF OHIO  
60 BIG RUN ROAD  
DELAWARE, OH 43015-8007**

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**TO: Post Chaplains**  
**RE: Four Chaplains/Religious Emphasis Week**  
**FROM: Department Chaplain & Assistant Department Chaplain**

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Enclosed are suggested materials for use in conjunction with Four Chaplains' Service and the following Religious Emphasis Week:

List of Four Chaplain Activities  
Sample Four Chaplains Sunday News Release  
Sample Four Chaplains Sunday Proclamation  
Chaplain's Contact Information

If you would like a copy of the "Story of the four Chaplains" or "Four Chaplains; Forgotten Men", please reference the "Four Chaplains Story" in this section of the website.

Another reminder: We are requesting all Posts, with sign boards, display the phrase "One Nation Under God" on their boards during Religious Emphasis Week, February 5 – 11.

If you have any questions about Four Chaplains' Services, Religious Emphasis Week activities or Religious Emphasis Awards, please contact me at: (937) 283-5995 or [pbutlerc@hotmail.com](mailto:pbutlerc@hotmail.com).

Every Post is encouraged to download and complete the enclosed Chaplain's Contact Information sheet and return it to Department Headquarters.

# FOUR CHAPLAIN ACTIVITIES

## FOUR CHAPLAINS' SUNDAY

The Four Chaplains be memorialized on the first Sunday in February of each year (the U.S. Senate, through Joint Resolution #57). It is also designated as "Go to Church Sunday".

## FOUR CHAPLAINS' WEEK

Ohio American Legion Posts should observe during the week of February 5<sup>th</sup> (Resolution #52 adopted at the 1964 Department Convention, Cincinnati, Ohio).

## RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS WEEK

Always the week following Four Chaplains' Sunday and promotes the religious ideals that have made this country strong.

Posts should promote these activities as a community project, enlisting the cooperation of their respective clergy.

# NEWS RELEASE

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
POST #: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, OHIO

In commemoration of the dramatic sacrifice of four armed forces Chaplains during World War II, The American Legion will observe RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS WEEK, February 5 to February 11, and Four Chaplains' Sunday, February 5, Chaplain \_\_\_\_\_ of Post # \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ has announced.

Legion officials and clergymen are planning special programs for the observance of the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sinking of the S.S. DORCHESTER and the heroism demonstrated by four valiant Chaplains.

Of the many thrilling incidents of World War II, probably none stirred the nation more deeply than the story of these four men of God whose heroic efforts were credited with the saving of more than 200 lives. These four; a Jewish Rabbi, a Roman Catholic Priest and two Protestant Ministers; calmly issued life-belts to American servicemen aboard the troop transport after it was torpedoed on February 3, 1943.

When the supply of life preservers was exhausted, the four Chaplains removed their own life belts and gave them to four soldiers and then stood calmly on the sinking ship, their arms around one another's shoulders and their head bowed in prayer.

Inspired by the heroic deed of these four Chaplains, The American Legion each year marks the anniversary of their supreme sacrifice through special services and programs throughout the nation. This annual observance, as a part of the Legion's "SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY" program, helps bring new emphasis to the religious aspects of our American heritage and the need for continuing adherence to the basic religious concepts upon which America was founded.

## FOUR CHAPLAINS' DAY

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, American History, colonial and national, is replete with dramatic narratives of heroism of fame, laurelled men and women who gave or risked their lives as defenders of their country; and

WHEREAS, on the memorial stones and scrolls that carry the names of America's heroic sons and daughters, none will shine with greater luster than the names of four men, who bore no weapons of war, but wore "The shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit"; and

WHEREAS, the last hour of recorded time the epic story of The Four Chaplains: CLARK V. POLING (Reformed Church of America), ALEXANDER D. GOODE (Jewish), JOHN P. WASHINGTON (Catholic) and GEORGE L. FOX (Methodist) will be remembered and exalted for the voluntary sacrifice of their lives in the early dawn of February 3, 1943; and

WHEREAS, although the event on this fateful morning was not new in the history of naval warfare but it was destined to be hallowed forever to reveal the calm and courage and saintly compassion of the four clergymen ever afterward to be known as "THE FOUR CHAPLAINS". The shock of the torpedo and the listing of the ship caused confusion and panic among the troops. Calmly, without the loss of a moment, the Chaplains led the men to the ship's boxes of life jackets and passed them to the soldiers with boat-drill precision. When the supply was exhausted, the Chaplains gave their life jackets to four young GI's and told them to jump. Twenty-five minutes later the DORCHESTER went down. The last anyone saw of The Four Chaplains they were standing on the slanting deck, their arms linked in prayer, to the one God they all served.

NOW, THEREFORE, I \_\_\_\_\_, Mayor of the City of \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio do hereby designate \_\_\_\_\_, February \_\_\_\_, 2017,

## FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY

And I call upon all citizens to witness that these men of God gave literal obedience to the Biblical dictum, "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends".

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MAYOR

**FOUR CHAPLAINS' SUNDAY**

**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, Friday, February 3, 2017, will mark the seventy-fourth anniversary of the sinking of the troopship DORCHESTER, which carried to their deaths four Chaplains of three faiths who stood united in prayer as the ship went down; and

WHEREAS, these four Chaplains; Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant; gave their own life-jackets to four soldiers and thus sacrificed their own lives to save the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting at a time when the freedom of the world is imperiled that the City of \_\_\_\_\_ should give special recognition to the memory of those who sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom; and

WHEREAS, the heroic deed of the four Chaplains and their combined act of supreme devotion and sacrifice for American liberty and human freedom will be an inspiring and ever shining example of real brotherhood for all time to the people of the world; and

WHEREAS, we must all see to it that their supreme sacrifice to the cause of human freedom and justice for all shall not have been made in vain;

NOW, THEREFORE, I \_\_\_\_\_, Mayor of the City of \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby designate Sunday, February 5, 2017, to be observed as Four Chaplains Sunday and call upon all citizens to commemorate the day with appropriate observances in public places and by prayers in their homes and houses of worship.

Given under my Hand and Seal of

\_\_\_\_\_ This \_\_\_\_\_

Day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

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DEPARTMENT OF OHIO  
60 BIG RUN ROAD  
DELAWARE, OH 43015-8007**

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**TO: Post Chaplains**  
**RE: Post Chaplain Contact Information**  
**FROM: Department Chaplain**

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Please provide the information requested and return to Department Headquarters, Attn:  
Department Chaplain:

Post #: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Chaplain: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

The above information may be e-mail to [pbutlerc@hotmail.com](mailto:pbutlerc@hotmail.com). Subject: Post Chaplain,  
if desired.