



CHAPLAIN / MEMORIAL

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The Four Chaplains



February 3rd will mark the 83rd anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army Transport Dorchester and the legendary acts of selflessness of four Army chaplains who were aboard. Many people will celebrate this day on Sunday, February 1st. Four Chaplains Day honors the four chaplains who went down with their ship, as they gave their life jackets to other passengers. On Feb. 3, 1943, the United States Army Transport Dorchester – a converted luxury liner – was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland. Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic).

Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck Dorchester's starboard side, below the water line and near the engine room. The explosion instantly killed 100 men and knocked out power and radio communication with Dorchester's three escort ships. Within 20 chaplains spread out, comforting the wounded and directing others to safety. One survivor, Private William Bednar, later said, "I could hear men crying, pleading, and praying. I could also hear the chaplains' preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going." Another survivor, John Ladd, watched the chaplains' distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven," he recalled. As Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

SOWING SEEDS OF PEACE
From "Grace for the Moment" by Max Lucado

Want to see a miracle! Plant a word of love heart deep in a person's life. Nurture it with a smile and a prayer, and watch what happens.

An employee gets a compliment. A wife receives a bouquet of flowers. A cake is baked and carried next door. A widow is hugged. A gas station attendant is honored. A preacher is praised.

Sowing seeds of peace is like sowing beans. You don't know why it works; you just know it does. Seeds are planted, and topsoils of hurt are shoved away.

Don't forget the principle. Never underestimate the power of a seed.

Plant goodness, harvest the fruit of loyalty, plow the new ground of knowledge.

This poem is in honor of our longtime members who have left this earth and continue to be missed every day....

MISS ME ~ BUT LET ME GO
Author Unknown

When I come to the end of the road
And the Sun has set for me
I want no nights in a gloom filled room
Why cry for a soul set free
Miss Me a Little – But Not Too Long
And without your head bowed low
Remember the love that we once shared
Miss Me – But Let Me Go.

For this is a journey that we all must take
And each must go alone
It's all a part of the Master's Plan
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds
Miss Me – But Let Me Go.

Submitted by Margee Keller, Crookston Unit #20