

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Ted Froats
Public Affairs Officer
Dayton VA Medical Center
4100 W. Third St. Dayton, OH 45428
(937) 267-3919



Dayton VA Medical Center to host national Veterans Affairs Four Chaplains Ceremony

DAYTON, Ohio -- The Dayton VA Medical Center will host the national U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Four Chaplains Ceremony at 12 p.m. Feb. 3 at the Dayton VAMC Protestant Chapel.

This is the second event of a year-long celebration of the Dayton VAMC's 150th anniversary of providing world-class care for Veterans in the local area.

The ceremony honors the actions of four chaplains after their ship, the U.S. Army Transport *Dorchester*, was hit by a German U-boat torpedo. The U.S. Army chaplains, Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed, helped other soldiers abandon ship by handing out lifejackets. As they came to the end of the available lifejackets, the chaplains gave up their own to other soldiers. As the ship went down, witnesses reported seeing the four chaplains, arms linked and braced against the slanting deck offering prayers.

Only 230 out of the 902 men onboard survived. In recognition of their sacrifice, the Chaplains were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Cross and Purple Heart in December, 1944. Additionally, a one-time only Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower Jan. 18, 1961, after a failed attempt to confer a Medal of Honor due to the strict requirement of heroism performed under fire.

The guest speaker will be VA Chief of Chaplains Michael McCoy.

###

For more information about the event, or to RSVP, contact Ted Froats at (937) 267-3919 or ted.froats@va.gov.

[About](#)

[Dayton VAMC
Leadership](#)

[History](#)

[150th
Anniversary](#)

[Annual Report](#)

[How to
Volunteer](#)

