

The Four Chaplains Memorial

An overview of this 9th District American Legion Memorial

The Four Chaplains Memorial program has long been one that not only tells the tale of comfort, support, and kindness unique to the Military Chaplains Corp, but tells the true-life story of self- sacrifice, Unity, and courage of these four Military officers and Chaplains selfless acts of true heroism.

Taking place in the winter months of 1943 we board the SS Dorchester on its fifth transatlantic voyage filled with some 902 passengers and crew on board. The small ship has been stripped of all its past glory and is crammed with as many people as possible.

Most of its passengers are New and raw recruits, as they are sent into battle for the first time. Their focus is on the war in Europe. Personal fears and anxieties are running high, and they must still make it past the enemy sub laden "torpedo Alley" prior to joining their comrades as part of the War effort.

The memorial explains the circumstances of the sinking of the ship, the loss of life, and the emotions of survivors. Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smearred water surrounded by the dead. Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Carl Sandburg once said "Valor is a gift, those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes." These four Chaplains passed the test that day and set forth an example of unity that spans time and history.

The 9th District American Legions, Cook County 1st Division, Department of Illinois, presents a Four Chaplains Memorial that uniquely bring to life the actions and stories of those involved in the sinking of the Dorchester. It is an action packed, multifaceted, stage and multimedia performance for people of all ages and beliefs. It is sure to capture your heart and drive home a better understanding of the self-sacrifice, heroism, Unity, and faith that is unique to this country and shared by those who serve as members of its Military.

The presentation of this memorial is offered free of charge to the public.

February 4th 2018

Performance will be held at **1 PM**
Franklin Park American Legion Post 974
9757 Pacific Ave, Franklin Park, IL 60131

Bring your entire Church congregation, organization, friends and family and enjoy this memorable program of Unity that is truly motivational. Parking at each facility is readily available and free charge