



The Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States

The Ohio Commandery

Newsletter

March 2020

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The Commander's Comments

I want to thank the Ohio Commandery Companions by supporting this Commandery. We are growing, but we need to continue our growth and we need to grow throughout the state. As we work on growing, we are fulfilling the purposes of the MOFW by working with other military or veteran organizations. The Ohio Commandery is comprised of those individuals who provide leadership in many organizations, fulfilling the purposes of the MOFW wherever they serve. This allows the Ohio Commandery to multiply its influence as we continue to grow in numbers of companions and get stronger.



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The Seven Purposes of the MOFW:

1. Honor and perpetuate the names of brave and loyal men and women.
2. Keep in mind the memory of their martial deeds and the victories which they helped gain.
3. Strengthen the ties of fellowship among the Companions of the Order.
4. Foster the cultivation of military and naval science ..
5. Bear true allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a paramount respect for, and fidelity to, the National Constitution and laws.
6. Aid in maintaining national honor, union and independence.
7. Foster and encourage the study of American history and particularly of American military history, to the end that the memory of brave men and women may freely be enshrined and that we and our children may learn from the past to formulate sound policies for the present and future.

The Commander's Comments

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On 5 February 2020, Senior Vice-Commander, Army Colonel (Ret) David Taylor, as the Commander of the Medina, Ohio American Legion Post 202, planned and presented the "Third City of Medina Four Chaplains Remembrance Service". I have printed on page 3, the article written by Dave Taylor for the March 2019 Ohio Commandery Newsletter about this event. This event is held in a different church each year and the Mayor of Medina works to help promote the event as well as participating in the presentation.

Also, March 29 is Vietnam Veterans Day. On 28 March 2020, Senior Vice-Commander Dave



Taylor as the Commander of the Medina, Ohio American Legion Post 202, will sponsor, "Vietnam Remembered: Up Close and Personal (Memories & Reflections by Those Who Were There)". I will be one of the four presenters.

On 23 April 2020, I, as President of the Ohio Western Reserve Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, will preside over the Chapter's Annual ROTC/JROTC Recognition Dinner. I will also present the MOFW medals for Leadership and Academics at JROTC Award Ceremonies in April and May. Recognizing the ROTC and JROTC cadets allows us to encourage and support the ROTC and JROTC staff as they work to develop future leaders and informed citizens.

Join us in helping to develop the Ohio Commandery and fulfill the important seven purposes of the MOFW.

"Deus et Libertas,"
Donald Bratton

Four Chaplains Remembrance **5 February 2020**



Four Chaplains Legacy Remembered

By

Senior Vice-Commander Dave Taylor

An important component of the MOWF is to keep alive the institutions and memories of our military services in the history of our nation. One important incident that involved four Army lieutenants (Chaplains) was the sinking of the troopship, the USAT Dorchester, sunk by a German U-Boat on February 3, 1943 while the ship steamed to Greenland in the North Atlantic.

On Board were Four Army Chaplains along with over 750 US Army and US Army Air Corps personnel and civilian passengers. The chaplains represented four different faiths: Rabbi Alexander Goode (Judaism), Father John Washington (Catholicism), Reverend George Fox (Methodist) and Chaplain Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed Church).



When the ship was hit by a German torpedo, panic broke out on the ship. The men were not able to lower some life boats into the water and the passengers quickly ran out of life vests; the four chaplains calmly walked about helping the soldiers to stay calm and encouraged them to jump into the frigid water to try to save themselves. When life vests were no longer available, the four chaplains took off their own life vests and gave them to others. The ship sank in only eighteen minutes after being hit by the torpedo.

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The men in the water watched the four chaplains on the deck of the ship along with others who did not go into the water. The chaplains gathered them together and led the remaining men in prayer and a hymn. Soldiers in the water reported seeing the chaplains on the severely slanting deck with arms linked together, heads bowed in prayer as they sank beneath the waves. Their bodies were never recovered. One survivor in the cold sea remarked, “It was the finest thing I have ever seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven”

Of the 902 officers, crew, service men and civilian workers on board, 672 went to an unmarked, watery grave. Each of the Four Chaplains was subsequently posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart.



American Legion Posts throughout the country hold Four Chaplains’ Remembrance Services in February to commemorate the event. The MOFW Ohio Commandery Senior Vice-Commander, Army Colonel (Ret) David Taylor, who is also the Legion Post Commander in Medina, Ohio, holds a Four Chaplains service each year for the Medina community. The Ohio Commandery Commander, Don Bratton, also a resident of Medina attends with others who are members of the Ohio MOFW.

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Taylor notes, “We take the example of the Four Chaplains, each from separate faiths but worshipping one God, as a means to bring our community together. Medina is a nice community with a high density of churches, but no community can escape all the problems in American society. So we dedicate the Four Chaplains’ service to recognizing selfless service to one another within our community, within our families and within our hearts”

***MOFW Ohio Commandery Senior Vice-
Commander Lights a Candle for Each Fallen
Chaplain***

