

# Four Chaplain Memorial Prayer Luncheon



CH (LTC) Bill Lovell, Installation Chaplain to USAG BENELUX Brussels delivers a challenging and reassuring message.



American Legion members honored each of the Four Chaplains who gave up their life preservers and their lives for others with a reading and candle lighting.

**SUMMARY:** The USAG Ansbach Religious Support Office partnered with American Legion Post 1982 at Katterbach Chapel for a community prayer luncheon on 4 February 2016. Every year, American Legion posts nationwide remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial services and commemorative events. On February 3, 1943 a German U-boat torpedoed the starboard side of the U. S. Army Transport Dorchester while crossing the Atlantic Ocean. The Dorchester sank within 20 minutes carrying more than 670 men, to include four Army Chaplains, to their deaths. In the midst of the pandemonium, according to those present, the four chaplains; Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish rabbi; Lt. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister, brought hope in despair and light in darkness. These Chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross in 1948 for their gallantry. Because of the Medal of Honor's strict requirements of heroism under fire, Congress authorized a one-time Chaplain's Medal for Heroism on July 14, 1960. Those attending the prayer luncheon commemorated each Chaplain, joined together in prayer for our nation and community, and enjoyed a delicious catered meal. The Four Chaplains prayer luncheon is one way the Religious Support Office supports the USAG Ansbach Garrison Commander's Lines of Effort 1 Mission Command, 3 Community Support, and 4 Ready and Resilient.

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