



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 21-0808, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING FOUR HEROIC U.S. ARMY CHAPLAINS

WHEREAS, February 3, 2021 marks the 77th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S. troop ship, SS Dorchester; and

WHEREAS, on that day in 1943 while transporting soldiers overseas over the North Atlantic, the SS Dorchester was struck by a torpedo which knocked out the ship's electrical system, leaving the ship dark which created panic among the men aboard, many of them trapped below deck. It is what happened during these crucial 20 minutes before the ship sank, the reason we remember this day; and

WHEREAS, in a final act of valor and courage, four U.S. Army first lieutenant chaplains Methodist Reverend George L. Fox, Roman Catholic Priest John P. Washington, Jewish Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Dutch Reformed Faith Reverend Clark V. Poling calmed the men and organized an orderly evacuation of the ship; and

WHEREAS, as they helped guide wounded men to safety into lifeboats and as life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out. The chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They then linked arms while praying and went down with the ship as it sank into the cold waters of the North Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, every year hence, citizens across our country have remembered the courage and extraordinary display of bravery from these four heroic men of faith, and

WHEREAS, this year's memorial program is hosted by the Marine Corp Veterans and is sponsored annually by the Combined Veterans Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, I, Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, do hereby designate Sunday, January 31, 2021 **FOUR CHAPLAINS SUNDAY IN COOK COUNTY**, in honor to preserve the memory of these individuals who demonstrated the ultimate supreme sacrifice at sea.