

**EIGHTY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
August 29, 30, 31, 2006**

Resolution No. 361: Award Medal Of Honor To The Four Chaplains
Origin: Convention Committee on Americanism
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Americanism

WHEREAS, On the frigid night of February 3, 1943, at approximately 12:55 a.m., the United States troop transport ship Dorchester, was torpedoed 150 miles off the coast of Greenland throwing the total ship into complete darkness amid shrieks of escaping steam and the frantic cries for help; and

WHEREAS, The Four Chaplains—Lieutenants John P. Washington, Clark V. Poling, George L. Fox and Alexander Goode—moved quickly among the bewildered troops, calming them and directing them to lifeboats and urging and assisting them to escape the quickly sinking vessel; and

WHEREAS, When there were no more life jackets available, the four chaplains aforesaid took off their own life jackets and made others accept them and use them in escaping the sinking vessel and, further, the four chaplains remained on the ship's slanted aft deck with arms linked together, heads bowed in prayer as the Dorchester slipped beneath the waves; and

WHEREAS, By their heroic actions, these four chaplains have become a legend with memorials to "their three faiths and one God" arising around this nation to promote brotherhood, to fight bigotry, and to encourage interfaith and interracial unity; and

WHEREAS, By these actions and in the sacrifice of their own lives they have become a beacon of faith for the people of this country to emulate with their traits of compassion and understanding based upon interracial and interfaith lessons as illustrated by the personal action of the four chaplains and is the basis for building bridges of understanding among all people of different faiths, religious and racial backgrounds; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 29, 30, 31, 2006, That The American Legion supports the awarding of the Medal of Honor to U. S. Army Chaplains, Lt. John P. Washington, Lt. Clark V. Poling, Lt. George L. Fox and Lt. Alexander D. Goode, for their heroism which cost them their lives on the night of February 3, 1943.