

Remembering the Four Immortal Chaplains!

From: Representative Bob Filner, U.S. Congress
RE House Bill: H.Res. 86

Date: 1/29/2009

Remembering the Four Immortal Chaplains

Compassion and diversity are the seed and strength for the coming together of Humankind. - - The
Immortal Chaplains Foundation

Dear Colleague:

I invite you to co-sponsor **H. Res. 86**, which remembers the Four Immortal Chaplains who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of compassion for those of different races and faiths and requests the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, and the people of the United States to observe a day in their honor with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities and remember compassion to others of a different faith or ethnicity.

On February 3, 1943, The U.S. Army Transportation Service troopship *Dorchester* was torpedoed in the North Atlantic by a German submarine. Of the 900 passengers and crew, 597 were military personnel, and four of those men were the ship's chaplains—Methodist chaplain George Lansing Fox, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Dutch Reformed minister Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest. Each chaplain distributed life vests as the ship went down and then gave up their own when supply ran out. They were last seen by witnesses, standing arm-in-arm on the hull of the ship, each praying in his own way for the care of the men. In 1948 a U.S. postage stamp was issued honoring these four chaplains as true examples of “*Interfaith in Action*.” They were recognized by Congress and Presidents for their selfless acts of courage, compassion and faith.

It is time to properly honor the legacy of these four brave Chaplains and their interfaith compassion toward their fellow man and each other!

If you have questions or would like to co-sponsor this Bill, please contact Shane Maharaj through e-mail at: Shane.Maharaj@mail.house.gov .

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER

Member of Congress