



AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
AUXILIARY



2<sup>nd</sup> District Newsletter-January 2025

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.....**Sandy's Corner**.....

As we say goodbye to 2024 and start new memories in 2025. I wish you all the best for the New Year! Time to start planning a new year within your units, take a few minutes and think of what your unit can do to help our veterans and promote patriotic community service activities to build community partnerships.

Have you had the opportunity to review the 2024-2025 annual report forms which were mailed to all Presidents in October? These online fillable forms can also be found on the Department website. If you struggle with reporting, it would be advantageous to attend the 2025 Midwinter Conference. ALA Session-January 18<sup>th</sup> in Appleton at the Hilton Paper Valley Hotel. Register online at [www.wilegion.org/midwinter](http://www.wilegion.org/midwinter). Cost is \$25/per member only until January 2<sup>nd</sup>, after that it will go to \$30/per member.

Now is a good time to also have your nominating committee in place for the 2025-2026 election of officers. If a member has held the same position for years, you may want to consider asking other members if they would be interested in that position, *it is* healthy for a unit to rotate officers. This promotes new ideas and thinking outside the box.

Do you have any upcoming events you would like to share within the district? If so, please send them to me to publish in the next newsletter. Also remember to send pictures of your events to Kristy at [kareuter19@gmail.com](mailto:kareuter19@gmail.com).

Thank you all for serving our mission.



REMEMBER the fallen... HONOR those who serve...  
TEACH our children the value of freedom.  
For God and Country-God Bless America  
"Together We Can Make a Difference."

## Americanism...

Mary Petrie, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Chairman –  
[mmrtpetrie@charter.net](mailto:mmrtpetrie@charter.net)

As the saying goes, *out with the old, in with the new*. However, as the new year begins, there's still much to do and share. Plan ahead...Though February is the shortest month of the year, it boasts several occasions, two of which pay tribute to men of honor.

**Four Chaplains Day:** February 3<sup>rd</sup> recognizes four Army chaplains, George, Alexander, John, and Clark, who unselfishly gave their lives to save others. Please read and share their story attached to this newsletter. It is worth repeating!

**Presidents' Day:** First celebrated as a federal holiday in the 1880's to observe George Washington's February 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday, it was then adapted in 1968 to also honor Abraham Lincoln's February 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. It moved to the third Monday in February and now the day is often considered a celebration of all U.S. Presidents.

Every Unit in 2<sup>nd</sup> District received an Americanism folder filled with a variety of information. I hope it encouraged you to share and served as a steppingstone to enhance your program.

All entries for the Americanism Essay Contest must be sent to the Department Chairman, Diane Burkhalter, by March 15<sup>th</sup> at [burkhalterdl@gmail.com](mailto:burkhalterdl@gmail.com) The contest form and criteria are on the WI website.

Are you working the 2<sup>nd</sup> District postcard project? I am looking forward to your reports, showing how you have been *Serving from the Heart*.

# Four Chaplains Day



Four Chaplains Day is celebrated on February 3<sup>rd</sup> every year in recognition of four Army chaplains who acted in the spirit of heroic sacrifice and humanitarianism onboard a sinking ship.

It was 1943 and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, packed to capacity. Tragedy struck when a German submarine fired a torpedo at the ship, sinking it in about 20 minutes and killing hundreds of the 904 on board. The damage was severe, causing loss of power, which prevented the crew from sending a radio distress signal or launching rockets or flares.

The Four Chaplains on board the ship was Reverend George L. Fox, Methodist, Jewish Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Father John P. Washington, and Reverend Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed Church. Witnesses remember their courage, support, and prayers for the many distressed people onboard. They offered their life jackets to four people in need and consequently had to remain on the sinking ship, comforted only by the thought of their actions and the fact that they were going to meet their Maker soon.

In recognition of their valor and guided by non-discrimination against anyone based on their religion, the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation was set up as a way of promoting interfaith unity and a spirit of service among individuals.

The U.S. government awarded them the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross medals in 1944. They were also nominated for the highest military honor, the Medal of Honor, but because they had not engaged in active combat with the

enemy, they did not qualify for it. Congress, therefore, created a ‘Special Medal for Heroism’ as an honorable substitute.

Since the bombing took place on February 3, 1943, many military organizations and clubs across the country observe Four Chaplains Day, and in 1998, a senate resolution was passed to recognize the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incident making Four Chaplains Day official.

While there are many memorials across the country for the four chaplains, they have not been buried anywhere because their bodies could not be recovered from the Atlantic.

Merchants and Miners Transportation Company by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company launched on March 20, 1926, she carried up to 314 passengers and a crew of 90 along the East coast between Miami and Boston.

Requisitioned by the Army, she was converted to a troopship by the Atlantic, Gulf and West Indies Steamship Company in New York, and fitted with additional lifeboats and rafts, as well as four 20 mm guns.

The Dorchester entered Army service in February of 1942, crewed by many of her former officers, including her master initially, and a contingent of Navy Armed Guards to man the guns and to handle communications.

In WWII, 100 chaplains lost their lives in the U.S. Army and Marines – most killed behind infantry and air forces.

## **5 Facts about Four Chaplains Day**

- 1) One source notes that the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was a luxury line. The ship was built in 1926 as a cruise ship that would travel from Baltimore to Florida with about 230 passengers.
- 2) Three of the four were Boy Scouts: Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling, & Father Washington.
- 3) There is a commemorative stamp. The U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in honor of the four chaplains in 1948, just five years after their death, which is very rare. The phrase at the top of the stamp reads ‘These Immortal Chaplains...Interfaith in Action.’
- 4) An interfaith chapel was established. President Truman instituted The Chapel of the Four Chaplains in the basement of Grace Baptist Church, Philadelphia, in 1951.

5) They have many memorials. There are a considerable number of memorial plaques, parks, statues, and even stained-glass windows all over the U.S. in their honor.

### **Why is this day important?**

- A. The eyewitness accounts of survivors paint a vivid picture of the service rendered by the four chaplains, who were seen offering prayers even as the ship was sinking. Their actions were deeply etched in the minds of the troops on the ship and the story still retains its emotional power to this day.
- B. It recognizes selfless service. They day honors the fact that the chaplains laid down their lives to save four others. This gesture of selfless service is worth recalling whenever we have the urge to act selfishly.
- C. It carries the message of one humanity. The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation states the need to work for all humanity in its mission. The act of the chaplains did not favor any denominations over another even as they offered prayers in their faith. This reminds us of the importance of secular, humanitarian values regardless of how strong our identity may be.

Danie Wilson  
2<sup>nd</sup> District Membership Chairman  
January 2025

Wishing all of you a Blessed Happy New Year.

We have 6 units at 100% or better and four units above 90%. What a wonderful way to start the new year.

Our Counties are working toward the 100% mark with Columbia County in the lead at 91.45% followed by Jefferson County at 83.86%.

Congratulations team for your work keeping the Mighty Second District moving forward. Each of you is vitally important to our success.

As a result of renewals being sent, the renewal phone lines at National have been inundated with calls. Getting through has been a challenge for a number of people; please keep trying until you get through. Renewals will be processed throughout the holiday season with limited office hours.

Remember if your unit is 100% by the end of January, you will be in the drawing for one Convention gift package.

There will be no Department membership reports until after the New Year.

Keep our deployed military and their families in your prayers as they are separated during the holidays.

God Bless America

## 2<sup>nd</sup> District VA&R Chair Shirley Krier Newsletter Article January 2025

I would like to thank all the Units that contributed to the VA&R Project this year which, was Honor Your Male Veterans.

These Units donated a total of \$1,750.00, they are the Allenton, Jackson, Cedarburg, Washington County, Watertown, Saukville, and Grafton Units. Thank you, thank you, you are awesome. My daughter, who now lives in Black River Falls and is a member of the Cedarburg Unit, also helped with purchasing items for the children of our Veterans.

Some of the items purchased were, hats, gloves, socks, shampoo, and deodorant for the male veterans. Mittens/gloves scarves, hats, shampoo body wash and deodorant for the female veterans. Some emergency food items for the children are: Jello, pudding cups, bubble gum, Mac & Cheese, different types of chips and goldfish crackers and fruit snacks. Gift cards to Clover's MacDonald's and Target were also purchased. Also purchased were items for the food pantry.

Thank you to the drivers from Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative who came to my home to pick the items up. This has been such a wonderful project and one that I really enjoy. It is a very rewarding project, giving back to the veterans.



## **Dates to Remember**

January 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> – Midwinter Conference/Appleton  
2025 Midwinter Conference  
Hilton Paper Valley  
333 West college avenue ~ Appleton, WI 54911

March 8<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> District Executive Meeting/Mayville 9-noon

### **Daylight Savings Time (March 9<sup>th</sup>)**

April 26<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> District Spring Conference/Mayville  
Theme is Red/White & Blue

July 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Department Convention/Green Bay

August 22<sup>nd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> National Convention/Tampa Bay

### **MISSION TRAINING 101**

January 25<sup>th</sup>-DesMoines

February 1<sup>st</sup>-Las Vegas

February 1<sup>st</sup>-Boston





## 2<sup>nd</sup> District January 2025

Department of Wisconsin-American Legion Auxiliary/President Sandy Mack

### DID YOU KNOW?

Originally January was the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of the year!

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Year's Day-symbolizing fresh starts and resolutions. Time to plan for a new year.
January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Global Family Day/World Peace Day
January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Introvert Day, National Buffet Day & National Cream Puff Day.
January 4 <sup>th</sup>	National Spaghetti Day, World Braille Day and World Hypnotism Day.
715-673BCE	The Roman republican calendar was revised replacing March being the 1 <sup>st</sup> month of the new year to January.
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Earth rotation day.
January 1890	The Rose Parade started in Pasadena, CA.
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Inauguration Day (every 4 years following a presidential election).
January	Individuals born in January are generally talkative and like experimenting with new things.
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
January 27 <sup>th</sup>	International Holocaust Remembrance Day.
January 1855	King Camp Gillette invented the safety razor.
January 1874	Joseph Erlanger, invented shock therapy & won the Nobel Prize in 1944
January 1900	Dennis Gabor, a physicist invented holography.
January	Colors of Cancer for January is Teal/White-Cervical Cancer Awareness
January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 1970	The 1 <sup>st</sup> National Blood donor Month occurred.

### Random Fun Facts

- 1) A cloud weighs around a million tons.
- 2) Giraffes are 30 times more likely to get hit by lightning than people/
- 3) Identical twins don't have the same fingerprints.
- 4) Earth's rotation is changing speed. (600mm years ago a day lasted just 21 hours).
- 5) Your brain is constantly eating itself.
- 6) Wearing a tie can reduce blood flow to the brain by 7.5%.
- 7) The sun makes a sound, but we can't hear it.
- 8) You can die laughing.
- 9) Chainsaws were first invented for childbirth.
- 10) Your brain burns 400-500 calories a day.

REMEMBER the fallen... HONOR those who serve...  
TEACH our children the value of freedom.  
For God and Country-God Bless America  
"Together We Can Make a Difference"