

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** on February 3, 1943, four United States Army chaplains aboard the USAT Dorchester heroically gave their lives in the process of saving others as their ship was torpedoed and sank in less than 20 minutes; and
- Whereas,** the supply of life jackets ran out on their sinking ship, Lieutenant George Fox, a Methodist minister, Lieutenant Alexander Goode, a Jewish rabbi, Lieutenant Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister, and Lieutenant John Washington, a Roman Catholic priest, selflessly gave up their life jackets to those who had none; and
- Whereas,** according to witnesses who survived the attack, the four chaplains linked arms, sang hymns, and offered prayers as they went down with their ship; and
- Whereas,** 672 members of our nation's military tragically passed away that day, including the four chaplains; and
- Whereas,** today, the State of West Virginia joins with those across the nation in reflecting on the selflessness and sacrifice of the four chaplains and all those who lost their lives aboard the USAT Dorchester, on that fateful day 80 years ago.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **February 3, 2023** as:

Four Chaplains Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Third day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State