



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Evangeline Conley, Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (716) 862-8753 Cell: (716) 512-9338
E-mail: Evangeline.Conley@va.gov

**VA WESTERN NEW YORK HEALTHCARE SYSTEM HOLDS
FOUR CHAPLAINS INTERFAITH SERVICE**

VA Western New York Healthcare System (VA WNYHS) will hold a memorial service for Veterans, employees, and the community on Sunday, February 8 at 2 p.m. in Freedom Hall (Room 301), 3495 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo, New York. The memorial service honors four U.S. Army chaplains who lost their lives in an extraordinary act of heroism during World War II. Rabbi George Baron of the Jewish War Veterans of America will be speaking, with Chaplain Robert Chambers presiding over the service.

At this special event, the Legion of Honor award presentation will be presented to Mr. Keith Anderson a VA WNYHS Volunteer, and Rev. Ivan R. Trujillo, Chaplain for VA WNYHS Batavia. This award recognizes and honors outstanding members of society whose lives model the giving spirit of unconditional service to community, nation, and humanity without regard to race, religion, or creed which is exemplified dramatically by the Four Chaplains.

The four chaplains, a Methodist Minister, Jewish Rabbi, Dutch Reformed Church Minister, and Catholic Priest were on a U.S. Army transport ship that was hit by a German torpedo off the icy waters of Greenland in February, 1943. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, the four US Army Chaplains removed theirs and handed them to frightened young soldiers, choosing to go down with the ship. They locked arms together and prayed in the tradition of their own faith. Of the 902 men on board, there were only 227 survivors. The chaplains demonstrated a strong interfaith compassion in their relationship with the men on board and with each other throughout this tragic voyage and in their last moments together.

For more information, please contact Chaplain Chambers at 716-862-8653. All are welcome to attend this special event.

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