



American Legion  
Rhein Main Post GR05  
Postfach 2837  
64537 Moerfelden Walldorf



Rhein Main / Berlin Airlift Memorial, or Luftbrückendenkmal

Feb 2019

Rhein Main Post GR05 received Temporary Charter on Oct. 18, 1972 then received their permanent charter on Apr 6 1973 in the German State of Hessen. GR05 has contributed various Donations to Organizations such as Fisher House, CWF, and Legacy Fund. Also, our Past Commander Ron Moore had ridden the Legion Riders Run held in the United Sates.

Post Commander: Santos Alvarado, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Quincy Foster  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Empty, Adjutant: Lewis Pullum,  
Finance Officer: Santos Alvarado (Appointed), Service Officer: Quincy Foster  
(Appointed), Chaplain: John Jones, Historian: Empty,  
Sergeant of Arms: Juan Barrenchea, Judge Advocate: Stacey Krueger

Executive Committee  
Ron Epps, Ernie Cojoe, Michael Blood, Dallas Smith, Walter Becker

### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

If you have not renewed your 2019 membership dues, please pay them as soon as possible. Your membership is what keeps the American Legion strong. 3 options are available: Pay online by going to [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) and setting up an account using your Membership number, by check mailed to our Post address or by bank transfer to the Post account.  
We prefer payment by [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org)

Presidents Day is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February; Presidents Day 2019 occurs on Monday, February 18. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents Day after it was moved as part of the 1971 Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present.

The American Legion Auxiliary will be having their meeting at 1 pm.

**Our next Post meeting will be Saturday, 9 Feb @ 2 pm, at the Bistro Blitz:  
Am Oberwald 264546 Walldorf**

All are asked to arrive at least 30 mins early for social hour, as the Meeting starts promptly at 2 pm.

If you are to be late, please call 015114959970. We are also available by Skype at: [rheinmaingr05](https://www.skype.com/join/rheinmaingr05)

In addition, there will be a gratitude meal provided by the Commander;  
the owner is cooking a special soup for us!

### Calendar of Events/ This Day in History

#### February

**3 Feb 1870:** The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing the right of citizens to vote, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

**9 Feb 1943:** During WWII in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed.

**12 Feb 1809:** Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Kentucky. He led the nation through the Civil War, help free the slaves, composed the Gettysburg Address, and established Thanksgiving.

**14 Feb:** Happy Valentine's Day 

**17 Feb 1865:** During the Civil War, Fort Sumter in SC was returned to the Union after nearly a year and a half under Confederate control. The fort had been the scene of the first shots of the war.

**22 Feb 1732:** George Washington was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He served as commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and became the first U.S. President.

**23 Feb 1991:** In Desert Storm, the Allied ground offensive began after a devastating month-long air campaign targeting Iraqi troops in both Iraq and Kuwait.

**27 Feb 1991:** In Desert Storm, the 100-hour ground war ended as Allied troops entered Kuwait just four days after launching their offensive against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces.

**28 Feb 1983:** Final TV episode of M\*A\*S\*H airs; record 125 million watch in the US

### **Rhein Main Post GR05 Sons of the American Legion**



The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as The Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

Find more information at [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)

### **American Legion Auxiliary**



#### **Mission Statement:**

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Find more information at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org)

### **American Legion Riders**



American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veteran's homes, severely wounded service members and scholarships. Since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in The American Legion Legacy Run to annually raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001.

Find more information at: [www.legion.org/riders](http://www.legion.org/riders)

### **In the News:**

We welcome our newest Member to GR05:  
Comrade Edward A Teamer – Army Veteran

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## January 2019 Post Meeting Highlights



*Vice Commander Quincy Foster receiving recognition for 12 years as a Member*



*Post Chaplain John Jones receiving his certificate of Initiation*



*Comrade Walter Becker receiving recognition for 32 years as a Member*



**Proud Members of the American Legion – Congratulations!**



## **Chaplain's Corner**

*Praise the Lord, all you nations!  
Extol Him, all you peoples!  
For great is His loving devotion to us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.  
Praise the Lord*

Please also check out the following video for the song "From A Distance"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IN4AcFzxtDE>

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The first Sunday in February is Four Chaplains Sunday. More than 70 years after they made the supreme sacrifice, the story of these heroic chaplains – Methodist, Jewish, Roman Catholic and Dutch Reformed is still being told.



***(Left to Right) Alexander D. Goode, George L. Fox, Clark V. Poling, John P. Washington***

On the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, USAT *Dorchester* was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 U.S. troops, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. *Dorchester*, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward a U.S. base in Greenland. Coast Guard cutters *Tampa*, *Escanaba* and *Comanche* escorted the convoy.

Hans Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier, *Tampa* had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the report. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea lanes, and several ships had already been sunk.

*Dorchester* was now only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard *U-223* spotted *Dorchester*. After identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire a fan of three torpedoes. The one that hit was decisive and deadly, striking the starboard side, amidship, far below the water line.

Alerted that *Dorchester* was sinking rapidly, Danielsen gave the order to abandon ship. In fewer than 20 minutes, *Dorchester* would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Tragically, the hit had knocked out power and radio contact with the three escort ships. *Tampa*, however, saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and rescued 97 survivors. *Escanaba* circled *Dorchester*, rescuing an additional 133 survivors (one died later). *Comanche* continued on, escorting the remaining two ships.

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Aboard *Dorchester*, panic and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded. Others, stunned by the explosion, were groping in darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside, where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then the knowledge that death awaited.

Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, overcrowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get into them. In the midst of the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness: Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish rabbi; Lt. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.

Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. They tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded, and guide the disoriented toward safety. "Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," said Wyatt Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

One witness, Pvt. William Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalled. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

A sailor, Petty Officer John Mahoney, tried to re-enter his cabin but was stopped by Rabbi Goode. Concerned about the cold Arctic air, Mahoney explained that he'd forgotten his gloves.

"Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pairs."

The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. Later, Mahoney realized that Goode hadn't been carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the chaplain had decided not to leave *Dorchester*.

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more life jackets to hand out, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew, and Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic. Nor did Rev. Fox and Rev. Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to those next in line.

"It was the finest thing I have ever seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains, braced against the slanting deck, arm in arm. They were heard praying and singing hymns.

Of the 902 men aboard *Dorchester*, 672 died. When the news reached the United States, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and the heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

"Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes."

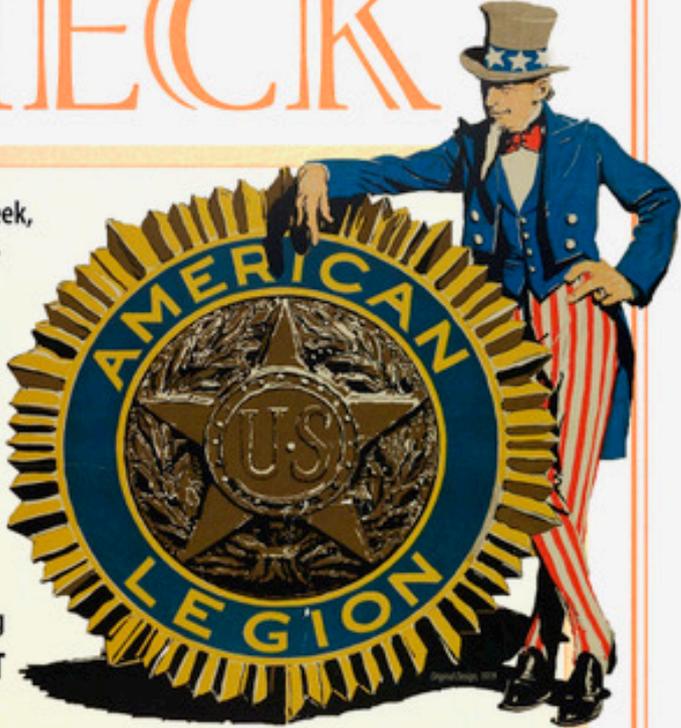
That night, Rev. Fox, Rabbi Goode, Rev. Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

In 1944, the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to the chaplains' next of kin, and in 1961, President Eisenhower awarded a special Medal for Heroism, a one-time award authorized by Congress and intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

A reminder for next month:

**MARCH 11-18, 2019**

# BUDDY CHECK



During Buddy Check week, take time to call on any member or former member who may have lost touch with the post. We need them, and they may need us.

Honor the vision of our founders by making **PERSONAL CONTACT** with fellow veterans.

**#TEAM 100**  
[WWW.LEGION.ORG/MEMBERSHIP](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/MEMBERSHIP)

Please submit any announcements or items for the newsletter to Stacey Krueger, Editor. Request must be submitted no later than by the 20th of the month for the next Edition @ [rheinmain05@outlook.com](mailto:rheinmain05@outlook.com)

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