



THE PRESS

Editor –Javier Collazo

The American Legion



Alvin Myo Dunn American Legion Post 365 Vista, CA

“Where Veterans & Their Families Meet”

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www.legionpost365.org

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While we all enjoy the Super Bowl game, the first Sunday in February is considered the *Four Chaplains Sunday*. **75 years** after they made the supreme sacrifice, the story of these heroic chaplains – Methodist, Jewish, Roman Catholic and Dutch Reformed – is still being told.

An edited article from www.Army.mil historical site

It was **Feb. 3, 1943**, and the U.S. Army Transport (U.S.A.T) Dorchester was one of three ships in a convoy, moving across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland. A converted luxury liner, the Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

It was only 150 miles from its destination when shortly after midnight, an officer aboard the German submarine U2 spotted it. After identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire. The hit was decisive, striking the ship, far below the water line. The initial blast killed scores of men and seriously wounded many more.

Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Panic and chaos quickly set in!

Through the pandemonium, four men spread out among the Soldiers, calming the frightened, tending the wounded and guiding the disoriented toward safety. They were four Army chaplains, Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt.

Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.



Quickly and quietly the four chaplains worked to bring calm to the men. As soldiers began to find their way to the deck of the ship, many were still in their underwear, where they were confronted by the cold winds blowing down from the arctic.

Once topside, 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 lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains simultaneously removed theirs and gave them to four

frightened young men. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did Fox or Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line. One survivor would later call it "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven."

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains -- arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers and singing hymns.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, only 230 survived. Before boarding the Dorchester back in January, Chaplain Poling had asked his father to pray for him, "Not for my safe return, that wouldn't be fair. Just

pray that I shall do my duty...never be a coward...and have the strength, courage and understanding of men. Just pray that I shall be adequate."

Although the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were later awarded posthumously Congress wished to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements which required heroism performed under fire.

So a posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, The Four Chaplains' Medal, was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President on January 18, 1961. **It was never given before and will never be given again.**

Special Medal for Heroism



Presented posthumously to the Four Chaplains

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From the Legion Riders

The Riders have spent the month working on the pistol raffle and the upcoming 5th Annual Darryl Malone Poker Run. Both events are scheduled for Saturday March 3rd and all members of Post 365 Legion Families and friends are most welcome to attend.

As always we are proud members of our American Legion family first, Post 365 second and Riders third!

Scott Newell
Vice President, ALR 365

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From the Historian

Commitment. As the football season draws to a close we all have our own take on what happened to alienate fans, both casual and life-long, from the game. Here in San Diego the loss of our team created a lot of resentment; and the actions of a few players who chose to make a statement during the playing of the National Anthem that resulted in a perceived "disrespect to the flag" turned many fans away from the game. The results of these



actions became evident at our post with reduced attendance on gamedays. But there are two units here at Post 365 who stood tall and honored their commitment to the membership – the SONS Squadron 365 and the Legion Riders Chapter 365. The SONS made the commitment to provide food during the Sunday afternoon games and did so for the entire season – 17 weeks plus the playoffs. For their efforts and time volunteered EVERY Sunday afternoon they were rewarded with a profit of about \$500.00. Do the math, that's about \$26.00 per Sunday afternoon. As for the Riders, who ponied up the \$700.00 plus for the NFL Package so we could watch the games, they honored their commitment when there were many places that asked for a refund for their money and dropped the games completely. For their commitment to finish what they started they deserve recognition. The actions of a few selfish and misguided people should not have ruined what has for most us been the best time of the year.

Although I am a baseball fan first, the two weekends of the football season (wild card weekend and conference playoffs) with 8 of the best games have always been special to me. It was no fun this year.

Thank you to the SONS and the Riders.

Raymond K. Johnson –Historian

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General Information

Post City		Many people have asked about Legion Covers and the different styles and colors. The official uniform of the American Legion is the Uniform Cap (Cover). Below is a brief explanation of the cap colors:
Post State		Post City or State; Solid BLUE cap with either “City” or “State”; This cap is for all members.
County		County; Solid BLUE w/ WHITE Piping: Represents County Officers.
District		District; BLUE cap w/ WHITE crown. Represents District Officers
Department		Department; Solid WHITE cap with state designation; Represents State Officers
National		National; Solid RED cap w/ state designation; Represents National Officers <i>Past officers only wear post caps.</i> The cap also has 3 types of crowns, the womens crown (modified style for ladies) Regular Crown (traditional) and the Fort Knox Crown. These are personal preference.

Ordering a cap can be done online at <http://emblem.legion.org> Cap prices average between \$40-50. Usually takes about 6-8 weeks.

The SONS of the American Legion have their own caps as well. The SONS follow a structure similar to the Legion (Squadron, County, District, etc) and have a unique color scheme as well.

The Legion Auxiliary does not have a designated official cap but has several styles available to them for their choosing.

The Legion Riders has two Berets; BLACK for general members and WHITE for Department Officers. The Beret is an option and not mandated; as a result, you may use you Legion or SONS cover at any Riders Event.

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From the Editor

Readers, this newsletter was delayed in part due to lack of articles. I waited beyond my deadline. As a result, 2 newsletters submission and a recycled article from last year. Thanks!



American Legion Riders



Chapter 365

Pistol Raffle

Dan Wesson

DAN WESSON FIREARMS



Commander Classic Bobtail

Dan Wesson produces only a few thousand handguns a year, using the best components and finishes the industry has to offer. They painstakingly hand-fit and polish each and every part, creating the best possible production 1911.



.45 ACP Caliber, Forged Stainless Frame, Brushed Stainless Slide, 4.25 Barrel Length, Snag-Free Tritium Sights, Bobbed Mainspring Housing, Tactical Hammer, Traditional Cut, Manual Thumb Safety, Grip Safety. MSRP \$1,688

Tickets \$10 each, 3 for \$25, 13 for \$100

American Legion Post 365

**Drawing to be held at Post 365 on March 3,
2018**

1234 S. Santa Fe AV

Vista, CA 92084

All proceeds to benefit veteran charities.

ALR 365 5TH ANNUAL DARRYL MALONE

POKER RUN

**\$25 RIDER/\$20
PASSENGER
INCLUDES LUNCH
LIVE MUSIC
RAFFLES & 50/50
VENDORS**



**SAME DAY PISTOL
RAFFLE & DRAWING**



**DAN WESSON
COMMANDER
BOBTAIL
CLASIC .45ACP**

Saturday, March 3rd

Registration: 8:30—9:30

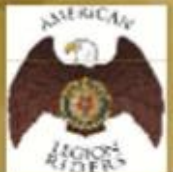


**All MC's/groups/ bikes/ cages
welcome!**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 365

1234 S SANTA FE AVE

VISTA, CA 92084



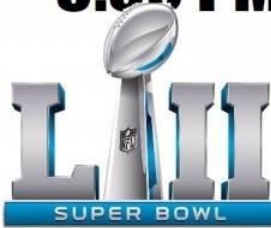


Sunday February 4

Alvin Myo
DUNN
P
365

Limited Wristbands **\$30** Clubroom has information!
Includes Open Bar with PBR Draft, Domestic Can/Bottled Beer, Wine, Mixed Well Drink plus food and quarterly opportunity chances!

3:30 PM



Post will provide main course. Participants are asked to bring a pot luck dish. Members with wristbands or who bring a hot entree/side dish eat free. All others are asked for a \$5.00 donation. PLEASE REVIEW POT LUCK LIST IN CLUBROOM



New England Patriots

6 TVs



Philadelphia Eagles

Please Remember To Drink Responsibly! Designated Drivers, Uber, Lift and Taxi's may be a choice that you want to consider!

American Legion Post 365, 1234 S. Santa Fe Ave., Vista 92084 Clubroom: 760-726-0472



Remembering Chris "The Legend" Kyle and Chad Littlefield. Both was murdered on 2 Feb 2013 in a shooting range in Texas while helping a fellow veteran (Eddie Ray Routh) who was diagnosed with schizophrenia PTSD.