

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

FOUR CHAPLAINS SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

WHEREAS, American history abounds with dramatic narratives of the heroism of men and women who have risked or given their lives as defenders of our country; and

WHEREAS, as many memorial stones and scrolls bear the names of America's heroic sons and daughters, so should the names of four clergymen who lost their lives during World War II on the USAT *Dorchester* be honored in such a way; and

WHEREAS, the men who are now known as *The Four Chaplains* — Clark V. Poling, Alexander D. Goode, John P. Washington and George L. Fox — will be remembered and exalted for the voluntary sacrifice of their lives in the early dawn of February 3, 1943; and

WHEREAS, on the morning of February 3, 1943, the USAT *Dorchester* was hit by an incoming torpedo destroying the electric supply and releasing suffocating clouds of steam and ammonia gas. As the soldiers panicked, the Chaplains calmly led confused men to the ship's life jackets and passed them out with boat-drill precision. When he discovered that the life jackets had all been claimed, the Chaplains gave their own life jackets to four young GI's left without. Twenty-five minutes later the USAT *Dorchester* sank with the Chaplains still standing on the slanting deck, their arms linked in prayer; and

WHEREAS, all North Dakotans are encouraged to commemorate the courageous heroism of these men 80 years ago with appropriate observances within their community, churches and homes.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
February 1, 2026, **FOUR CHAPLAINS SUNDAY** in the State of North Dakota.




Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE