

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1—SENATORS O’CONNELL, AMODEI, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, HARDY, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NEAL, NOLAN, RAGGIO, RAWSON, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER, TIFFANY, TITUS, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

FEBRUARY 4, 2003

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Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Commemorates induction of Senator William J. Raggio into Chapel of Four Chaplains and inscription of his name on Legion of Honor Wall. (BDR R-789)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Commemorating the induction of Senator William J. Raggio into the Chapel of Four Chaplains and the inscription of his name on the Legion of Honor Wall.

- 1 WHEREAS, Through the Legion of Honor Award Program, the
- 2 Chapel of Four Chaplains recognizes and encourages selfless
- 3 service rendered without regard to race, religion or creed by
- 4 individuals from all walks of life to their communities, the nation
- 5 and humanity; and



1 WHEREAS, The inspiration for the Chapel of Four Chaplains and
2 its mission comes from the courageous acts of the four Army
3 chaplains who were serving aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester when it
4 was hit by an enemy torpedo and sank in the North Atlantic on
5 February 3, 1943; and

6 WHEREAS, The story of the four chaplains begins on the evening
7 of February 2, 1943, when the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, crowded to
8 capacity, was moving across the frigid waters from Newfoundland
9 toward an American base in Greenland; and

10 WHEREAS, Just after midnight, with the U.S.A.T. Dorchester
11 only 150 miles from its destination, an enemy submarine fired a
12 torpedo that exploded in the boiler room, destroying the electric
13 supply and releasing suffocating clouds of steam and ammonia gas;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Taking on water rapidly, the ship began listing to
16 starboard and men clung to the frozen rails, frozen with fear, unable
17 to let go and plunge into the dark, churning water far below; and

18 WHEREAS, The testimony of survivors tells us that the sole order
19 and only fragment of hope in this chaos came from four chaplains,
20 Lieutenant George L. Fox, Methodist, Lieutenant Alexander D.
21 Goode, Jewish, Lieutenant John P. Washington, Roman Catholic,
22 and Lieutenant Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed, who quickly and
23 quietly spread out among the men, tending the wounded, calming
24 the frightened and guiding the disoriented toward safety; and

25 WHEREAS, One witness found himself floating in oil-smeared
26 water, surrounded by dead bodies and debris, and said that he could
27 hear men crying, pleading and praying and that the only thing which
28 kept him going was the voices of the chaplains, preaching courage,
29 offering prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who
30 were trying to survive; and

31 WHEREAS, The Arctic air was freezing, leading Rabbi Goode to
32 offer what he said was an "extra" pair of gloves to Petty Officer
33 John J. Mahoney, who only later realized that the Rabbi had decided
34 not to leave the ship and so had offered his only pair of gloves; and

35 WHEREAS, Topside the chaplains were distributing life jackets
36 from a storage locker, and when there were none left to distribute, to
37 the astonishment of the men, the chaplains removed their lifejackets
38 and gave them to four frightened young men; and

39 WHEREAS, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew, Father
40 Washington did not call out for a Catholic, nor did the Reverends
41 Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant, they simply gave their life
42 jackets to the next man in line, showing true altruism and
43 spirituality; and

44 WHEREAS, As the ship went down, the survivors in nearby rafts
45 could see the four chaplains, arms linked and braced against the



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1 slanting deck as the ship went down, their voices still offering
2 prayers for the salvation of the men they served; and

3 WHEREAS, Through the powers vested in Ed Gobel,
4 Southwestern States Regional Director, and his Regional Board of
5 Directors, Linda West Myers, Caryl Gobel and Dr. Alan Myers, and
6 with the blessing of Reverend Marvin Gant, State Chaplain, on the
7 60th Anniversary of these heroic acts, United States Senator Max
8 Cleland and Nevada Senator William J. Raggio were honored by
9 being inducted into the Chapel of Four Chaplains and having their
10 names inscribed in the Legion of Honor Wall in the Chapel at
11 Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
13 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Nevada Legislature hereby
14 recognizes the spirit of the four chaplains in Senator William J.
15 Raggio for having devoted his life to helping others through service
16 to his country in the United States Marine Corps, his work on behalf
17 of the principles of all religions as evidenced by his recognition by
18 the National Conference of Christians and Jews, his work to
19 eliminate discrimination as evidenced by the Torch of Liberty
20 Award from the Anti-Defamation League and the virtual plethora of
21 legislation passed during his 30 years in the Senate; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That this Legislature heartily commends Senator
23 William J. Raggio on the auspicious occasion of his induction into
24 the Chapel of the Four Chaplains and congratulates him on
25 becoming the fifth Nevadan to be so inducted; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
27 transmit a copy of this resolution to Senator William J. Raggio.

