



# The Salute Online



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield, Franklin, and surrounding counties, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are the Second Thursday of each month except July and August. Although MOAA and PACMOAA actively lobby legislatures for all US uniformed services members, we are nonpartisan and do not participate in political activities.

VOLUME XXXX Issue III

LEARN MORE AT [PACMOAA.ORG](http://PACMOAA.ORG)

MARCH 2021



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings,

Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day! I began to wonder if it would ever stop raining until we got a few days of sunshine. With the birds singing, jonquils starting to peek out from the ground and warmer temperatures, thoughts of spring emerged! Spring, the time of renewal in nature, is my favorite season. I hope you enjoy spring as much as I do.

Your Leadership Team is working on several items. First, they are watching the Covid-19 news closely to determine when we might be able to resume in-person meetings. Second, a new recruiting brochure is being developed by Sherry Ferki (Membership Chair) and Ken App (Webmaster and technologically proficient). With feedback from the Leadership Team, we hope to have it printed soon. Third, we are looking for other, more cost-effective places to potentially have our in-person meetings. Fourth, initiatives to expand our recruiting efforts are being explored.

With the help of Sherry and Bruce Ferki, Ken App, and others, we continue to monitor Covid-19 Shot availability at the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center. The status changes often and we will continue to update you by email and Facebook.

In closing, I hope you remain safe and well. Listen to the birds, admire the new growth around you and look forward to a bright future. Covid-19 cannot last forever!! I'll see you at our Zoom Meeting, March 11, 2021 at 1900 hours!

Bill Smith  
COL USA (Ret)

### Virtual March Meeting

Speaker – Will be our own **CAPT Bob Brewer**

His presentation will be on the USNS MERCY, it's construction and first humanitarian deployment to the Philippines and South Pacific in 1987. This talk will feature construction, design and demonstrate surgical cases by Captain Robert F Brewer who was then the Navy's Specialty Advisor for Plastic Surgery, and one of the surgeons on this mission ordered by the State Department by President Reagan to support the medical issues in the new Philippine government. The talk will feature highlights of some of the 62,000 patients treated, as well as some of the 800 surgeries performed during this mission to five port visits in the Philippines.

(Continued on page 2)



PACMOAA LEADERSHIP

See Leadership Web Page



CHAPTER NEWS

MARCH CALENDAR

Women's History Month

11 PACMOAA Virtual Meeting. Speaker CAPT Bob Brewer

13 [K 9 Veterans Day](#)

14 [Daylight Saving Time Begins](#)

15 [American Legion Birthday \(1919\)](#)

17 [St. Patrick's Day](#)

20 [Vernal equinox](#)

25 [Medal of Honor Day](#)

27 Passover Begins at Sunset

28 Palm Sunday

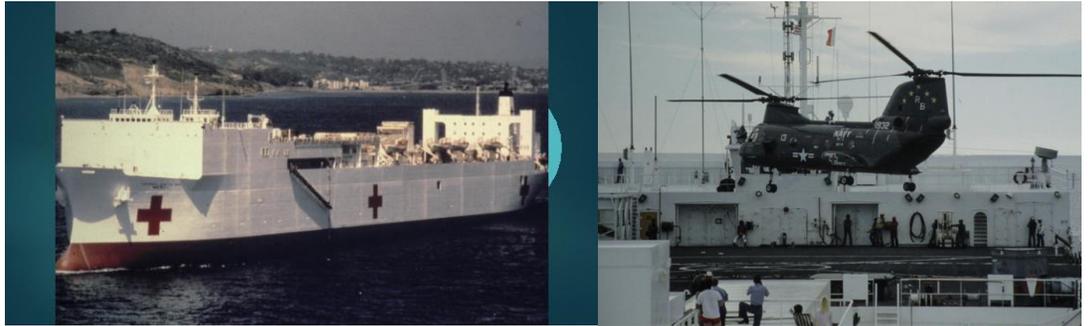
29 [National Vietnam War Veterans Day](#)

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

John Cordle

Michael Halley

Gordan Van Hook



USNS Mercy (T-AH 19)

HUMANITARIAN TRAINING MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS		PORTS VISITED IN THE PHILLIPINES	
<b>MEDICAL/DENTAL</b>			
Patients seen	62,321	Olongapo (Subic)	Puerto Princesa
Patients admitted to Mercy	920	Legaspi	Cebu
Major surgery	800+	Davao	Calbayog
Minor surgery	1,200+	Zamboanga	
Lab procedures	24,000		
X-rays	10,000		
<b>NON-MEDICAL</b>			
Medical/Dental repair	1.4 million dollars		
Lectures (to over 4000 students)	200 hours		
Material aid			
Medical libraries (7), food, health care products			

**NOTES:** All in person meetings depend on the current phase Hampton Roads is in, with CDC and state guidelines. We will keep you updated as soon as we know of any changes.

## MEMBERSHIP

PACMOAA ended 2020 with 72 members and currently has 72 members. One of those members moved late in 2020 and we sadly lost two members this year. One of our Charter Members, CDR Henry Boschen, USN (Ret) died on 22 January, and MAJ Jim Yandle, USA (Ret) died on 25 February. More information on both of them will be included under the Personal Affairs column.

Thus far, PACMOAA has 3 new members per MOAA – Mrs. Bettye Hussey, LTC James Rodney, USA (Ret), and Mrs. Janet Boschen, Henry's widow.

The new dues structure voted in at the January meeting has proven very popular with 21 of the 28 members that have renewed this year so far paying 2 or 3 years membership!! Over 50 % of our members are paid which is almost a 10% improvement over last year. That includes our 6 life members of PACMOAA, 2 honorary life members, and 3 members that joined at the end of 2020. Thank you all very much. I will start sending out reminders to those that have not renewed yet shortly.

We certainly want to increase our membership with new members but also to maintain the current members!! Our Communications Chair, CDR Ken app, USN (Ret) has done a wonderful job putting together a recruitment brochure that can be sent to potential members, shared at meetings and used at recruiting events. The new Board of Directors has discussed many ideas for increasing membership and we'll keep you posted.

**REMINDER: There is a Membership renewal form on page 12. PACMOAA still plans on awarding 2 scholarships this Spring and we need your donations! Many people include extra funds with their dues renewal or you can donate money separately either by mail or online.**

## PERSONAL AFFAIRS

Please keep our members/families that are having problems in your thoughts and prayers and reach out to them if you can. The past year has been extremely stressful for everyone. If possible, please let me know if you, a member of your family, or another PACMOAA member is ill and would like visitors or for us to remember them in the newsletter. We cannot support members when they need us unless someone notifies us.

Bob Parker is having more mobility issues and would love to hear from his PACMOAA friends.

Several of our members recently had surgery or will be having surgery soon.

Thank you.

Sherry Ferki, Personal Affairs Officer  
Home number: 686-4650 Cell: 630-5608

## IN MEMORIAM

**Henry Boschen**  
1927-2021



From left to right in picture:

**Bruce LaLonde,  
Jack Lyons,  
Henry Boschen  
Janet Boschen, and  
Teddy Lyons at a  
PACMOAA  
Christmas Gala.**

I am very sorry to have to tell you that one of our Charter Members, **CDR Henry C. Boschen Jr, USN (Ret)**, died on Friday 22 Jan 2021. In addition to being a Charter Member, Henry was President in 1986 and our Chaplain for many years before Bob Steorts became Chaplain. Henry and Janet were able to join us for our 35th Anniversary celebration, see picture below, and our Christmas party that same year. Most of my memories of Henry and Janet are when they came to our annual summer brunch. I always enjoyed talking with them and catching up. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Janet and her family. We will all miss Henry's great smile and personality!



Left to right: Jack Lyons, Sherry Ferki, Henry Boschen and Larry Anderson

From the newspaper obituary: **Henry Boschen**, 93, passed away at home with his family in Chesapeake, VA on January 22, 2021. He was born August 8, 1927 in Richmond, Virginia, the son of Henry Chisholm Boschen, Sr. and Gladys Morrissett Boschen. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Audrey Boschen Seay, and her husband, Perry Seay.

After his service in World War II, Henry graduated from the Richmond Professional Institute of the College of William and Mary in 1950. Receiving a direct Commission, he reentered the Navy and served for 28 years, including service aboard the USS Willard Keith DD 775 during the Korean Conflict, the Command Ship USS Taconic, and the USS Canisteo AO-99. He was Executive Officer in the USS John W. Weeks, Commander of Second Coastal Zone in Vietnam, and he Commanded the USS San Marcos, LSD-25, until transfer of the ship to Spain.

After retiring from the Navy, Henry attended Southeastern Seminary, graduating in 1979 with a Master of Divinity with Religious Education. He served as a pastor in the West Chowan Baptist Association in Kelford Baptist Church, Holly Grove Baptist Church, Holly Springs Baptist Church, and as associate pastor of Sandy Run Baptist Church. He was also a hospice chaplain for 30 years.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 69 years, Janet Cullifer Boschen, two daughters, Margaret Gaméz and Patricia Rose, granddaughter Katelyn (Stewart) Sharp and her husband, Andrew Sharp, brother-in-law Robert Glenn Cullifer, Jr. and his wife Margaret, nieces and nephews.

He was proud to serve his God and Country.

There will be a memorial service on Memorial Day. Place and time to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Kelford Baptist Church, PO Box 37, Kelford, NC 27847, or online by [clicking here](#) and Sandy Run Baptist Church, PO Box 95, Roxobel, NC 27872 or online by [clicking here](#).

Garrett-Sykes Funeral Service – Ahoskie Chapel is handling the arrangements for the Boschen family and online condolences can be directed to the family by visiting [www.garrettsykesfs.com](http://www.garrettsykesfs.com).

NOTE: I spoke with Patti, Henry and Janet's daughter, on 13 Feb. and she said her Mom would love to receive cards or notes from PACMOAA members.

### Jim Yandle

1930-1921

I was very sorry to hear that one of our past Board Members and Hospitality Chairs, Jim Yandle died. He had a wonderful smile and engaging personality. He and Lois were elves helping me distribute the pollyanna gifts at several Christmas Galas. Unfortunately, they had not been able to attend any meetings in some time due to health issues. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Lois and her family.

From the newspaper obituary: **James H. Yandle**, 90 went to be with the Lord on February 25, 2021. He was a native of Charlotte, North Carolina and a graduate of Wingate College in Wingate, North Carolina. He was a member of Centenary United Methodist Church, a retired salesman, a member of Western Branch Masonic Lodge # 189 AF&AM. James was truly a patriot: He served his country as a Korean conflict era Army Veteran and retired as a Major in the Army National Guard.

He is survived by his devoted wife Lois Hughes Yandle; four children, Frank Yandle and his wife Alice, Laurie Yandle Gregory and husband Dan, James Yandle and his wife Claire, John Yandle and wife Alice; grandchildren, Marshall Yandle and wife Patricia, Allison Yandle, William Yandle, Derrick Gregory, Veronica Gregory, Sarah Yandle, Ray Cox and wife Michelle, Bryan Cox, Andrew Polson, John D. Yandle and eight great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 1pm Tuesday at Centenary United Methodist Church with Rev. John Cole, II presiding. Interment with military honors will follow at Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens. The family suggests memorial contributions to Centenary United Methodist Church. Loving Funeral Home is handling the arrangements and online condolences may be made at [www.LovingFuneralHome.com](http://www.LovingFuneralHome.com).



**Jim and Lois Yandle at a Christmas Gala.** Jim was a past Board Member and the Hospitality Chair. The Hospitality Chair has the arduous task of making sure all attendees at the dinner meetings have name tags and place cards on the table.

Sherry Ferki, MAJ USA (Ret)  
Personal Affairs Officer



Twila and Gordon Nelson



Gordon Displaying his  
MOAA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

## FROM MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

In FY21 NDAA, the halt for both 18,000 medical billet cuts and MTF restructuring is 180 days instead of one year, but all the reporting requirements were maintained in full. Thus, this is an ongoing mission for MOAA while military troops and medical personnel keep being deployed!

**Pentagon Taps 3,600 More Troops to Support ‘Mega-Vaccination Sites’** per [moaa.org](https://moaa.org) website February 16, 2021 and [Military.com](https://military.com) Feb 17, 2021

*Editor's note: This article by Matthew Cox originally appeared on Military.com, a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.*

The Pentagon announced Friday that it will deploy about 3,600 additional military personnel to support COVID-19 vaccination sites around the country.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has authorized an additional 20 teams to support a Federal Emergency Management Agency request -- one that could ultimately require close to 19,000 service members to assist at vaccine sites, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters Friday.

Austin approved five teams on Feb. 4. The first is made up of soldiers from [Fort Carson](https://www.fortcarson.com), Colorado, Kirby said. That team has deployed to California and will be "operational, we expect, by Monday supporting a mega-vaccination site in Los Angeles," he added.

The new total of 25 teams brings the troop strength supporting the FEMA effort to 4,700 personnel, Kirby said. The 20 newly authorized teams will be made up of 10 type-one teams, each consisting of 222 personnel supporting mega-vaccination sites, he said, adding that the other 10 will be smaller type-two teams of 139 personnel supporting smaller vaccination sites.

"These 20 teams are being organized to support FEMA-identified sites and will be deployed as requirements evolve," Kirby said.

The troops supporting FEMA will join the more than 26,000 [National Guard](https://www.nationalguard.mil) members and 3,000 active-duty personnel who have been supporting COVID efforts over the last year, he added.

**[RELATED: [COVID Relief Package Includes Major Change in For-Profit Colleges’ Rules on GI Bill Benefits](#)]**

Details are still being worked out, Kirby said, but most of the personnel for the teams could come from the active force.

"We don't have sites for all these additional 20 teams that the secretary authorized," he said. "Sourcing isn't complete, but I would expect that many of these teams will be sourced out of the active component."

The demand from FEMA could ultimately require 100 teams, bringing the total up to approximately 18,800 personnel, Kirby said.

"This will be a deliberate and phased approach," he said. "What we are trying to do is to make sure that when FEMA has identified sites that we are properly poised and ready to support those sites."

The Pentagon is working with U.S. Northern Command to make sure that the troops on these teams receive the training and resources they need to be ready for the mission, Kirby said.

"What we are trying to do is to be ready when we are needed," he said.

**Excerpt from Military.com article on 17 Feb 2021:**

## **Military Prepares to Deploy Thousands of Active-Duty Troops to Help FEMA Deliver**

**Vaccines** 17 Feb 2021 Military.com | By [Patricia Kime](#)

The Pentagon is preparing to deploy thousands of active-duty U.S. military personnel to support COVID-19 vaccination sites across the country, according to [Air Force](#) Gen. Glen Vanherck, head of U.S. Northern Command.

As many as 3,700 troops are on stand-by [deployment](#) orders to support Federal Emergency Management Agency mass inoculation centers, Vanherck said during a phone call with reporters Tuesday.

**Read Next:** [Military Families in On-Base Housing May Soon be Able to Withhold Rent in Disputes](#)

Currently, 247 personnel are deployed to Los Angeles and Oakland, California, and New Jersey, with roughly 850 additional personnel slated to go out Feb. 24 as teams to assist locations in New York and Texas.

The rest are prepared to deploy as teams to facilitate administering up to 6,000 vaccinations a day at some sites and 3,000 at others.

"How much will we have, to get to those 100 teams, it depends on how much the pharmacies can do, how much state and local governments can handle," Vanherck said.

According to Vanherck, a large Air Force team will deploy to Houston, while a smaller team will deploy to Brooklyn. An [Army](#) and [Marine Corps](#) team will go to Dallas, while a [Navy](#) team will go to Queens.

Other teams will support vaccine delivery in New Jersey and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Teams will include personnel capable of distributing vaccines, as well as pharmacists, nurse supervisors and members who can handle the necessary paperwork, screen patients and run the sites, Vanherck said.

## HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE: From the NMCP Website

### COVID-19 Immunization

#### PHASE 1A and 1B

UPDATE: Tuesday, March 2, 7:50 a.m.

We have received shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine, and we are providing initial and second dose vaccinations to the following according to the DoD Population Schema:

#### FIRST DOSE

PHASE 1A and 1B listed below

- **Operational forces.** U.S. Fleet Forces will continue to coordinate with your command to schedule vaccinations for initial doses. NMCP will continue to communicate with operational commands to coordinate the availability of the vaccine. If you are Active Duty, please DO NOT CALL or walk in without U.S. Fleet Forces coordination.
- **DoD Eligible Beneficiaries 75 years or older.** If you are ELIGIBLE for care at NMCP and want to receive the COVID vaccine, please call the Call Center at 757-953-6200 and select option # 2 TWICE to schedule an appointment.
- **Frontline Essential Workers.** Please coordinate with your command's POC to schedule vaccinations for initial doses.

## SECOND DOSE:

- Please come to NMCP for second dose IF you received your first dose at NMCP on or before Feb. 5. We have received several questions about the timing of the second dose. Following CDC guidelines, the second dose should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible. However, if it is not feasible to adhere to the recommended interval, science behind the vaccination shows that the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine may be scheduled for administration up to six weeks (42 days) after the first dose. We do not anticipate exceeding the CDC-approved window for vaccination (42 days from first to second dose).

Note: The Above information has changed over numerous times over the past few weeks, so check the website, Facebook or call before going to hospital to receive vaccine.

### NMCP PHARMACY UPDATE

Beginning 1 February 2021 at the Scott Center Annex Pharmacy drive-thru hours will be **7:30 am to 5 pm Monday – Saturday** for refill pickup and pickup for new prescriptions initiated and processed via NMCP Pharmacy Call Center. **Call Center Hours are now 0730-1700 M-F, and 0730-1300 Sat, which is a significant reduction.**

## SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

### How to Become an Effective Advocate

By: Dr. Vivianne Wersel February 26, 2021

It can be very frustrating to find yourself in a position when legislation needs to be changed, but you are unsure where to start.

My nearly 16 years' experience in legislation as an advocate affords me the opportunity to share with you how you can become more involved in improving military survivor benefits. Many surviving spouses already are seasoned advocates, thanks to MOAA and other veterans service organizations. However, for those who are new to this frontier, the following guidance can help you learn to advocate and navigate the process with confidence.

- **Find your passion.** Choose an issue that directly affects you. This will have more of an impact when telling your story.
- **Gather information.** Find fact sheets from [MOAA's Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook page](#), [MOAA.org](#), your local MOAA chapter (legislative committee), and the [Surviving Spouses Virtual Chapter](#). Construct a simple blog regarding how this issue impacts you as a military surviving spouse. Be yourself. It is important you feel comfortable discussing the issue, even if you do not have all the details. Information can be sent later.
- **Determine whether the issue is local, state, or federal.** Some examples include:
  - Federal: Improve VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, remarriage law
  - State: Professional licensure, property tax exemption, benefits of military surviving spouses
  - Local (City/County): Noise abatements, zoning ordinance
- **Cultivate relationships with staffers.** This is important because staffers are the ones who will make a difference to move the effort forward. Again, tell your story (brief). Prepare a short bio to help connect you with a staffer and or member when setting up a meeting.
- **Establish a meeting.** During COVID-19, meetings will be held via a virtual platform. There are some advantages, such as no parking issues or inclement weather restrictions. If you do not feel comfortable with a virtual meeting, call the elected official's office and asked for a phone conference appointment with the appropriate staffer or ask to leave a message on staffer's phone. Even though you did not

virtually meet with the staffer or member, what is important is you raised awareness about your issue. Remember, the elected official and staffer — whether it is federal, state or local — work for you. You are their constituent.

A future webinar is being planned to provide specifics on Advocacy in Action, MOAA's signature spring advocacy event.

[Read past Surviving Spouse Corners.](#)

## REMINDER PER PACMOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The number of scholarships to be awarded for the year will be voted on at the April Board Meeting and is based on donations from PACMOAA members. If you have not renewed your dues yet, perhaps you can include a little extra for our Scholarship Fund.

College expenses are increasing as are all other expenses. Most families have fewer resources this year than in past years. Please consider donating some money to help these students out in their quest for a career in the military. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be most helpful!

One of our scholarship winners, John Walker who graduated from Western Branch High School in 2017 and is attending Texas A&M, is featured in our recruitment brochure!



Submitted by MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)  
Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### The Four Chaplains

*Valor is a gift. Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes.*

Carl Sandberg

On the evening of February 2, 1943, the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen, and civilian workers.

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

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

The *Dorchester* was now only 50 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 February 3, at 12:55 A.M., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-2 spotted the *Dorchester*. After identifying and targeting the ship, he

gave orders to fire the torpedoes. The hit was decisive – and – deadly-striking the starboard side, amidship, far below the water line.

Danielsen, alerted that the *Dorchester* was taking water rapidly and sinking, gave the order to abandon ship. In less than twenty-seven minutes, the *Dorchester* would sink beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Tragically, the hit has knocked out power and radio contact with the three escort ships. The CGC *Comanche*, however, saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and then rescued ninety-seven survivors. The CGC *Escanaba* circled the *Dorchester*, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC *Tampa*, continued on, escorting the remaining two ships.

Abroad the *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 around in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then by the knowledge that death awaited them.

Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Goode, Jewish; Lt. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

Quickly and quietly the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There 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,” says Wyatt Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

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

Another sailor, Petty Officer John Mahoney, tried to reenter his cabin but was stopped by Rabbi Goode. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he has forgotten his gloves.

“Never mind,” Good responded. “I have two pairs.” In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the *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 in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men.

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

Ladd’s response is understandable. The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. 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 the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for Protestants. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line.

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.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester*, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

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

Victor M. Parachin

Submitted by Rabbi Earl Grollman

From *Chicken Soup for the Golden Soul*

COMMUNITY CORNER



PACMOAA’s Karl and Hal in Seamen’s Ministry

I check my APP every day to see if a ship is in port. When it is, team members try to plan a trip there to visit, take gifts, and otherwise assist and brighten-up the lives of the crew who have been away from home for weeks or months.

Christmas and winter are especially meaningful times. On those occasions we take winter hats, scarves, and gloves along with bags of Christmas candies—one of each for the crew members.

Karl Wilson

Sometimes ships’ personnel with visas can go ashore, but in this last covid year, most ships have not allowed visits ashore. When they do, we try to assist with transport. Sometimes we make purchases for them.

We are a Christian ministry group, Tidewater Transportation Ministries, associated with Portsmouth Baptist Association, but try to meet the needs of the seamen regardless of their faith. When invited we have been able to lead worship and celebration sessions with singing and sharing. Visiting is invariably a joyful activity. **Karl Wilson and I** are part of a team of men who visit.



Recent crews have been composed of Filipino, Russian, Georgian, Ukrainian, Latvian, and Chinese personnel. Once in a while we meet a female crew

member.

We are part of an internationally affiliated ministry and cooperate with several National and International agencies that carry-on or encourage work such as ours. All interested in this good work are invited to call 757-418-4576 for info or clarification.

“Never stop serving.”



Hal Hostetler, PACMOAA

**THAT’S A WRAP FOR FEBRUARY!**

