



February 2024 #137 Post Meetings 2nd Wednesday of the Month

American Veterans

Hammond Biggs Post 111 Patchogue, New York

Commander: John Morge

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The Sinking of the U. S. Army Transport Dorchester and the Four Chaplains

It was Feb. 3, 1943, and the U.S. Army Transport 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.



(Continued on page 6)

Happy St Valentines Day



Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14.

It originated as a Christian honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named **Saint Valentine** and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

So come on down to the post on February 14th and celebrate St Valentines Day with your Sweet Heart



Commander/John Morge



Hello brothers and sisters, I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. We're off to a new year and I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous year.

I'm glad our members Vito and Ironman

are on the mend as well as our news editor Mike.

We now have a pool table so come down and play some games.

There's not much going on as far as events are concerned. The next main one is St Patrick's Day. We are discussing having a Texas Hold-em tournament in the very near future so let me know if you're interested.

The new gutters have been installed and the driveway is going to seal coated in the spring.

I want to thank everyone who helps out at the post to keep us going. You know who you are.

I also want to thank Patchogue Village for everything they do for us.

Well that's all for now and I hope to see more of you at the post.

1st Vice Commander/Chaplain/SHR - Michael Amodio



It is with a heavy heart to report my sister Mary has passed away. Mary played the piano, we did a few gigs together. She was also a dance instructor at Arthur Murray Dance studio. She passed away peacefully in her sleep. *May she rest in peace.*

January has not been a very good month for my family.

We had to put my Yellow Lab Galaxy down. His was suffering with kidney failure. He was a good dog and marched with me in various parades in Patchogue. I also took him to the Long Island State Veterans home in Stony brook to visit the residents.

Pictured on the right is Galaxy Marching with me in a 4th of July parade.



Bits & Pieces

Groundhog Day always falls on February 2.

This traditionally marks the midpoint between the winter solstice in December and the spring equinox in March.

According to legend, if a groundhog sees its shadow on this day, there will be six more weeks of winter; if it doesn't, then spring is right around the corner.

Of course, it's a bit of a joke.

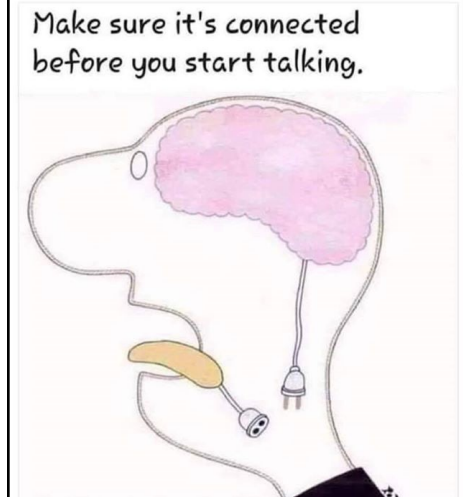
"If he sees his shadow, we'll have six more weeks of winter;

if he doesn't, it'll be six weeks till spring"

because, of course, the dates of the equinox do not change.

So the way I see it, spring is still 6 weeks away weather he sees his shadow or not.

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER WHEN A HOLIDAY WAS JUST A HOLIDAY AND EVERYTHING WAS CLOSED, AND SUNDAY WAS A FAMILY DAY.



Shoved in the back with no "A/C", video games, "I-pads", TV, or internet, and I STILL SURVIVED.




AMVETS Post Officers *** 6-1-24 to 5-31-25

Commander	John Morge 806-6612
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2nd Vice Commander	James Culliney 289-0163
3rd Vice Commander	Robert Gully 981-1698
4th Vice Commander	Robert Lendino 618-5505
Adjutant	Joseph Perrone 513-5317
Finance Officer	Joseph Perrone 513-5377
Provost Marshal	Steve Wein 974-1310
Judge Advocate	Joseph Meiselbach 889-2447
Public Relations Officer	Open
Service Officer	Matthew Dougherty 294-3640
Chaplain	Michael Amodio Sr. 807-9235
Recreation Director	Robert Gully 981-1698

AMVETS Sons Officers *** 6-1-24 to 5-31-25


Commander	Jason Morge 806-9156
1st Vice Commander	Matthew Morge 609-0454
2nd Vice Commander	Kerri Malenda 456-1326
3rd Vice Commander	Open
Adjutant	Dave Marlborough (516)-317-6730
Finance Officer.....	Arnie Mendelsohn (H) 758-8033 (C) 879-7445
Provost Marshall.....	Pete Loizides 935-3262
Judge Advocate.....	Open
Service Officer.....	Open
Chaplain.....	William Dolcimascolo 902-2217
Public Relations / Historian.....	Open

**IF YOU HEARD
THE SHOT**

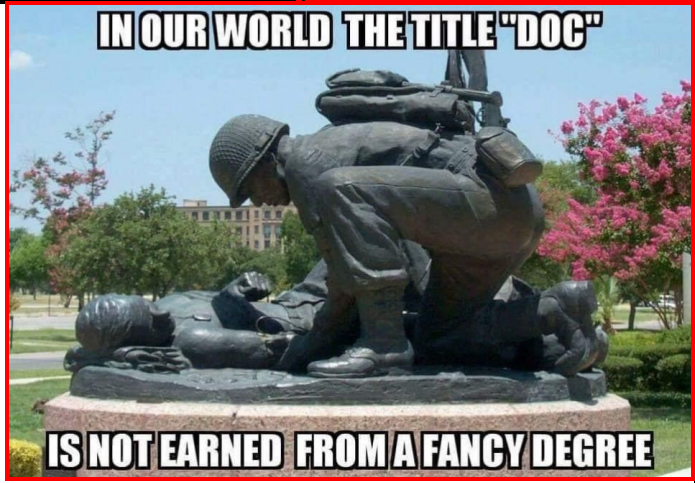


**YOU WERE NEVER
THE TARGET**

BROTHERS



don't always have the
same mother..





Sons of AmVets

Squadron 111 Sons Serving Veterans
Commander: Jason Morge



Hello all. I hope everyone had a great start to the new year.

It's that time of year to reflect on what we did last year and work on doing better for ourselves and our friends and family and learn from our mistakes.

It's also that time of year to get your Super Bowl bets in and party planning

done. Unfortunately the Bills came up short again. Sorry Dad there's always next year.

The Sons have started selling our Shamrocks for our 50/50 fundraiser. The drawing will be held at our home post 111 after the Saint Patrick's day parade so come on down buy some shamrocks and have some

corned beef and cabbage and maybe a beer or 3. It's always a good time.

Till next time



I hope everyone stays happy healthy and warm.



FEBRUARY CALANDAR OF EVENTS

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
WEDNESDAY	08	7:00PM	Sons of AMVETS Membership Meeting	Post Meeting Room
THURSDAY	14	7:00PM	AMVETS Membership Meeting	Post Meeting Room

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY

February 02, 2024	Groundhog Day
February 10, 2024	Lunar New Year (Year of the Dragon)
February 14, 2024	Ash Wednesday / Saint Valentine's Day
February 19, 1945	US Marines land on Iwo Jima [Battle of Iwo Jima Begins]
February 23, 1969	Tet Counter offensive Begins
February 23, 1991	Desert Storm Ground War Begins

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS OF ALL POST MEMBERS

01 - James Molly	15 - Edger Borrero	20 - Robert Metz	25 - Vince Stramaglia
02 - Dan Prunty	16 - Scott McKendrick	20 - Norman Hopkins	28 - James J. Morge
08 - George Barrett	18 - Wieslaw Szela	20 - Frank Ragazzo	28 - Harold Nesbitt
08 - Richard Johnson	18- Robert Gonzales	21 - Tom Bergin	

Congratulations to 2nd Lt. Madison Marsh, aka Miss Colorado — who was just crowned Miss America 2024! Marsh is currently pursuing her master's degree in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School through



the Air Force Institute of Technology's Civilian Institution Program, which falls under Air University. She is the first active duty service member to ever win the Miss America title.

The 22-year-old second lieutenant is the first active-duty Air Force officer to win the title

U.S. Air Force officer Madison Marsh is 2024's [Miss America](#).

Marsh, 22, who is also a master's student at the Harvard Kennedy School's public policy program per [CNN](#), was crowned as 2024 Miss America in Orlando on Sunday. She had previously represented Colorado.

"You can achieve anything. The sky is not the limit and the only person that's stopping you is you," Marsh said in an interview shared via [Miss America's Instagram story](#).

She then added that if she could come from "a small town, not being part of

the pageant," and step into the pageant world, then so could anybody else.

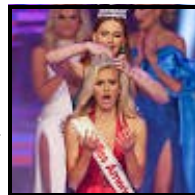
U.S. Air Force officer Madison Marsh is 2024's [Miss America](#).

Marsh, a second lieutenant in the US Air Force, is the first active-duty Air Force officer to receive the title and succeeds Grace Stanke of Wisconsin, who was the 2023 Miss America. Stanke was also present on Sunday to crown Marsh.

The U.S Air Force Celebrated Marsh's win with a post on X — formerly known as Twitter — in which they called her "our very own."

Congratulations to our very own [#Airman](#), 2nd Lt. Madison Marsh, aka Miss Colorado — who was just crowned [@MissAmerica](#) 2024! Marsh is the first active duty servicemember to ever win the title.

There were 51 contestants in total, who represented U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Preliminary judges chose 10 contestants to enter the pageant, while the public voted for one, resulting in 11 semi-finalists.



Before narrowing them down to five finalists, the semi-finalists took part in four rounds of competitions, which included a fitness runway walk, a "hot topics" discussion, a talent show and an evening gown presentation.

The finalists then had to speak about their dreams and goals as Miss America.

Per CNN, Marsh opened up about her later mother's journey with pancreatic cancer when she spoke about the discussion topic of drugs in America. In the talent show round, she opted for a spoken word about receiving a pilot's license at 16.



Ahead of the pageant, Marsh opened up about what motivated her to take part. Speaking to SWNS, per [The New York Post](#), she said, "It's an awesome experience to bring both sides of the favorite parts of my life together and hopefully make a difference for others to be able to realize that you don't have to limit yourself."

She continued: "In the military, it's an open space to really lead in the way that you want to lead — in and out of uniform. I felt like pageants, and specifically winning Miss Colorado, was a way to truly exemplify that and to set the tone to help make other people feel more comfortable finding what means most to them."

(click on blue hyperlinks for more info)



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

If you can identify this young trooper in this mystery photo;

e-mail me at:

amvetsnews@gmail.com

or call Mike Amodio Sr. at

631-807-9235

Free drink of your choice for the first correct answer.



Who knows the year, make and model of this vehicle? (See page 10 for answer)



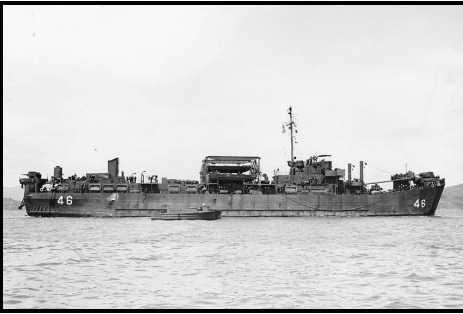
No one could identify this months mystery photo

She is

Taylor Swift



Panic and chaos quickly set in! Men were screaming, others crying or frantically trying to get lifeboats off the ship.



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.

Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, reeling from the cold, headed back towards his cabin. "Where are you going?" a voice of calm in the sea of distressed asked. "To get my gloves," Mahoney replied. "Here, take these," said Rabbi Goode as he handed a pair of gloves to the young officer. "I can't take those gloves," Mahoney replied. "Never mind," the Rabbi responded. "I have two pairs." It was only long after that Mahoney realized that the chaplain never intended to leave the ship.

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 would not 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."



Coast Guard Cutter USCGC Escanaba Rescues Dorchester Survivors

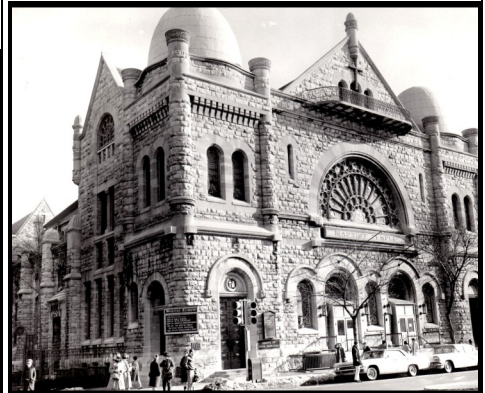
Although the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were later awarded posthumously Congress wished to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements which required heroism performed under fire. So a posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, **The Four Chaplains' Medal**, was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President on January 18, 1961.



This Medal was never given before and will never be given again.



The Four Chaplains Monument located in Ann Arbor Michigan



Chapel of the four Chaplains in Philadelphia,



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 Bucko Logan
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 Major Romas Zimlicki
 Maia Zimlicki
 John Hofmann
 Ann Marie Hofmann

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 Ted Logan USN WWII
 Wenden Logan USN WWI
 Barbara C Sutley
 John Coords WWII
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 Anselm Massaro
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 Lt. Col. Kristi Kennedy
 Dale Neal

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 M/Sgt Howard Boughey
 WWII
 Howard Boughey WWI
 Al Massaro USMC WWII
 Fred L. Adams WWII

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 Bob "Iron man" Zomerfeld
 PPC Jim Furman
 Sue Bereza
 Doug Hulbert

Mary Hulbert

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 Thomas Watson Sr.
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 Robert "Top" Parente

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 Shirley Dehritz
 Vito Orlando
 Lis Orlando

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Name _____

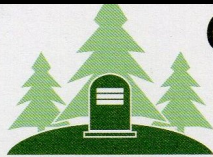
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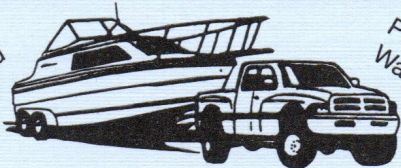
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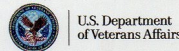
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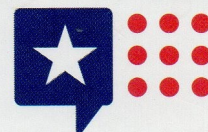
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