



# BIRMINGHAM & FERNDALE STAMP CLUB

## February 2023

In February, we celebrate Valentine's Day on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday on the 12<sup>th</sup> and George Washington's Birthday on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. But, what about "Four Chaplain's Day"?



Scott #956 – Four Chaplains

Four Chaplain's Day is celebrated annually on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, in recognition of four Army chaplains who acted in the spirit of heroic sacrifice onboard a sinking ship in 1943. Methodist Minister George Fox; Rabbi Alexander Goode; Father John Washington; and, Dutch Reformed Minister Clark Poling were on the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* when it was struck by a German torpedo in the Atlantic Ocean – Lest we forget.

Notes from our January club meetings

The club's annual contribution to the NEXT Senior Center in Birmingham was approved by members.

It's Show Time!

Club members stamped and stuffed 450 announcements for our annual FERNPEX show, February 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> at Sokol Cultural Center in Dearborn. A sufficient number of dealer commitments have been obtained to make the show successful.

The C & G Publishing Company has approved website and print announcements for the Birmingham Stamp Club through April, 2023.

Upcoming events:

Club meetings – February 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham

Modern Stamps sale #508, March 4<sup>th</sup> at its Oak Park Facility

Toledo Stamp & Postcard Expo, February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, Graystone Hall, Perrysburg, OH

Ken Rusch, President

Fred Como, Vice-President

Phil Kwasny, Secretary

Robert Helbig, Co-Treasurer

Faisal Qureshi, Co-Treasurer

Michael Swope, Editor-Webmaster

# Normandie Hotel

Michael Swope



The site of the Hotel Normandie on Congress Street between Woodward Avenue and Bates Street in Detroit, was the location of a hotel since 1825. Owned by the largest land-holder in the state, Joseph Campau was known by Native Americans as “Chemokamun” – Big Shot. The old hotel was replaced in the 1870’s by two different hotels: The Rice Temperance Hotel on the west half of the property and the Atlanta House on the east half. The two were combined, remodeled and transformed into the six-story Normandie, which opened on April 22, 1890.

“Everything is new and of the latest design,” wrote the Detroit Free Press. “There is little doubt that it will score a pronounced and enviable success, right from the start.”

But, as the Detroit News wrote in 1927, “There is nothing more ruthless than the march of progress . . . Whatever is in the way of a juggernaut, so to say, is razed, crushed, and obliterated.” The “juggernaut” in this case was a twenty-five-story addition and parking garage for the First National Building. The Normandie closed June 11, 1927, and was demolished two weeks later.

The color-photo postcard was machine cancelled at Detroit on February 5, 1915, and mailed to Mt. Clemens, Michigan. The postcard is franked with the 1¢, green Washington, (perf 10) Scott #424.

