

Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Program February 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There are many different **Military Holidays and Observances** to honor our Veterans, the active duty personnel currently serving in the US Military, those in the reserves, and the military families, the military spouses and military children left behind. They deserve our Love and Respect!

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FOUR CHAPLAINS
DAY

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USO DAY

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NATIONAL SALUTE TO
VETERAN PATIENTS

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UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD BIRTHDAY

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PRESIDENTS' DAY

Please remember R.E.D. Friday -
Wear **RED** every Friday to Remember
Everyone Deployed!

EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY!!!



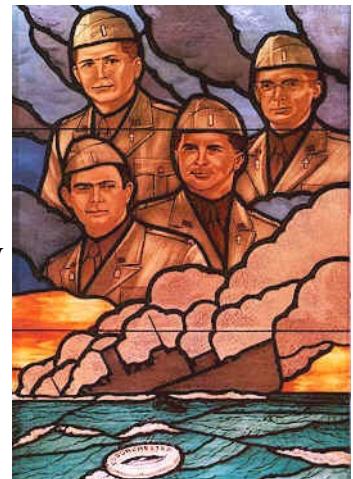
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FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY

Military service often entails sacrifice. Service members must sacrifice time with loved ones to carry out orders. Families must sacrifice stability in residence for service members to be stationed where they are needed.

Troops must sacrifice creature comforts and familiar surroundings to forward deploy. And, at times, men and women of the military might have to make the ultimate sacrifice for their fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen, or marines. However these sacrifices may be acknowledged, whether honored publicly or observed privately, they are part of the reality that is serving in the military.

Four Chaplains Day is one such day of public observation. Each year on February 3rd, this day of remembrance is celebrated across the country. It honors four military chaplains who sacrificed their own lives to save the lives of their fellow service members during WWII.



Who Were The Four Chaplains?

The men who came to be known as the Four Chaplains were Methodist minister the Reverend George L. Fox, Reformed Church in America Minister, the Reverend Clark V. Poling, Reform Rabbi Alexander D. Goode (Ph.D) and Roman Catholic Priest Father John P. Washington. The four men had met while attending Chaplains School at Harvard in preparation for each of their appointments as Chaplains.



USO Day

February 4th is the official birthday of the organization known as United Service Organizations for USO. The USO has been a fixture in military life for more than seven decades. Founded in 1941, the agency is a private, not for profit organization working in cooperation with the Department of Defense.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS

The week of February is notable for Valentine's Day, but there is another observation during this week that has special significance for anyone with a veteran family member receiving medical care.



The National Salute To Veteran Patients happens the week of February 14th and pays tribute to just under 100,000 patients a day that receive medical treatment in VA medical facilities as well as the nine million U.S. veterans who get care every year.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE

February 19 is the official birthday of the United States Coast Guard Reserve. Officially set up in the 1930s as a “civilian reserve” operation, it was non-military in nature. The Coast Guard Reserve Act of 1939 was the earliest incarnation. The Reserve soon evolved into something much greater than the original authors of the law had envisioned.



The “regular” Coast Guard was formed in 1790. It wasn’t until much later that Auxiliary and Reserve operations would be added to the branch of military service. But when the need arose, there were thousands of people ready to answer the call.

A Brief History of the Coast Guard Reserve

The United States Coast Guard Reserve official site states that in 1939, “the Coast Guard Reserve bore little resemblance to the organization that today augments its Active Duty counterpart in nearly all mission areas”.

The original version of the Coast Guard Reserve, the “1939 version”, was known as the Coast Guard Auxiliary. A federal law passed in 1939 authorized the Auxiliary. It was intended for civilian boat owners who as part of their service in the Auxiliary would be responsible for promoting water safety, seamanship, and other water-based missions.



PRESIDENTS' DAY

This year, Presidents’ Day will be observed on February 19, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted:
Phyllis M. Cooks, Department Chair
Veterans & Family Support
2023-2024