

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 45

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 70th anniversary of the heroic sacrifice of George Lansing Fox, one of the Four Immortal Chaplains

Offered by: Representative Quimby of Concord

Whereas, during World War I, George Fox ran away from home at age 17 to join the army, and he served as a medical orderly on the Western Front, and

Whereas, he was awarded the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the French Croix de Guerre for meritorious service, and

Whereas, following his military service, George Fox returned to the United States, completed his interrupted high school education, graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University, and was ordained a minister in 1934 at the Boston University School of Theology, and

Whereas, he eventually assumed the pulpit at the East Concord Methodist Church, his last civilian post, and

Whereas, George Fox returned to the U.S. Army during World War II as a military chaplain, and he was traveling aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester with over 900 soldiers to his European posting, and

Whereas, on February 3, 1943, a German submarine U-223 torpedoed the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, forcing the troops to man lifeboats as the vessel sank, and

Whereas, George Fox was one of four chaplains who gave away his own lifejacket when the available supply proved insufficient, and

Whereas, after the last of the lifeboats, several of which were damaged, had departed, the chaplains remained and prayed with those unable to escape, and

Whereas, the last time a survivor saw George Fox alive, he was praying with his arms linked with those of the other chaplains, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling, and John P. Washington, and

Whereas, George Fox and his clerical colleagues were each awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart, and

Whereas, in 1951, President Harry Truman dedicated a chapel at the Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in their honor, and

Whereas, in 1960, Congress established the Four Chaplains' Medal, and it was presented posthumously to the families of each of these four heroic clergymen, and

Whereas, February 3, 2013 marked the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the 70th anniversary of the heroic sacrifice of George Lansing Fox, one of the Four Immortal Chaplains, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Pastor John Sommers at the East Concord Methodist Church.