



Rev. Fox

Rev. Poling

Father Washington

Rabbi Goode



Recipients of the Prize for Humanity from left Dr. Yehuda Stolov, Ms. Najeeba Sirhan from Interfaith Encounter, Israel; and U.S. Coast Guardsman Jonathan M. Rice. Receiving the first Spirit of the Immortal Chaplains Awards are: Medal of Honor winner Tibor Rubin and Rabbi Harold Schulweis accompanied by his wife.

## 2006 Prize for Humanity Feb. 5th Event

—By Libby and Len Traubman  
A report from first-time attendees at The Immortal Chaplains Event.

“Wow,” we kept saying to each other. We’re home from the Queen Mary, but still reveling in the power of “story” to keep us aiming high, pursuing excellence, being courageous, and making the

impossible doable and within our reach.

We were not familiar with the amazing story of the Immortal Chaplains but decided to fly from San Francisco to your 2006 Prize for Humanity gala. The program rang out greatness and importance, and we knew and wanted to support honorees Jewish Yehuda

Stolov and Palestinian Najeeba Sirhan from Israel.

We could not have imagined how deeply we’d be touched by the power of that world-class moment in the elegant Queen’s Salon. The Super Bowl would pale in comparison, for thrills and emotion for a lifetime.

The ceremony was story after story from the lips of women and men who risked life and reputation to help those of other religions and ethnicities. The Palestinian and Jew said, “*We just couldn’t wait for governments. We people had to reach out to one another to build our future.*” The audience rose as one, cheered and applauded. Yehuda beamed. Najeeba dropped her face in her hands and wept.

A young Coast Guard hero, Petty Officer Jonathan Rice, had descended from helicopters to save

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## New Interfaith Sanctuary Dedicated on Queen Mary

—By Ben Epstein

As a survivor of the *Dorchester*, I participated in the dedication of the new Memorial Interfaith Sanctuary on the bow of the Queen Mary on February 5th. This is now a memorial to all those who lost their lives when the ship was torpedoed in the darkness of February 3, 1943. The dedication was a moment of stark emotions as I remembered so many faces that went down on the ship that day...and now there is a memorial to their memory – as well as to the four Immortal Chaplains.

I remembered my buddy on the *Dorchester*, Vince Frucelli, who was like a loving brother to me, who would do anything in the world for me, and I for him...He didn’t follow me over the side of

the ship, as he said he would, and I lost my friend in that icy sea. There isn’t a day that goes by that Vincent’s smiling face doesn’t come into my thoughts, and as long as I live, Vince will be a part of me.

Standing now on this great Queen Mary, I see so many lifeboats! I’m reminded that the *Dorchester* had only 14 for 1,000 men, and mine capsized as it went down the side of the ship. I was luckily picked up by one of only two lifeboats that were able to be released from their frozen rigging. As we began rowing away, I turned and saw a sight that will remain with me forever. The *Dorchester* was disappearing into the ocean, and it looked like a Christmas tree with red lights all around the railings. Each of these red lights, fastened to life jackets,



Dedication ceremony for the Immortal Chaplains Memorial Sanctuary

represented a human being, all frozen in fear...We were helpless to aid these unfortunate men as they submerged with the ship.

Now this Sanctuary will always be available to all who wish to pay their respects to those who died – and to remember the example of four chaplains, all of different faiths – who took off their life jackets so others might live. I am very grateful.





## View from the Bridge

—By David P. Fox, Co-Founder and ICF Executive Director  
Dear Friends of "These Immortal Chaplains",

In October we moved our office from Minnesota to The Queen Mary, the historic former oceanliner and WWII troopship in Long Beach, CA. We immediately began work on a permanent Interfaith Memorial Sanctuary and offices to house our archives and display the story of the four Immortal Chaplains.

There are over one million visitors to The QM each year and already hundreds have visited us since the opening dedication of our space on February 5. They enter the Sanctuary and see the story portrayed in words and pictures. Inevitably they walk through to our offices where

Sheilah Booth, our Admin. Asst., warmly welcomes them to view our 8-minute video of the story. Many are moved to tears hearing *Dorchester* survivors and Theresa, the widow of Chaplain Rabbi Goode, tell their personal accounts of the ship sinking on February 3, 1943. Most have never heard the story. People of all faiths meditate in silence on the Chaplains' self-sacrifice for others. Many sign our guest book on their way out and leave a comment of remembrance.

Our Foundation's mission is an important one. We tell the stories of compassion for others of different faith or ethnicity, and thus, to remember the potential for compassion in each of us.

We need help to move our plans forward and expand this story across the United States – and around the world by means of the written word, video, radio, film and in school curriculum and assemblies. I ask you to please, take a moment now to send a gift and know how grateful we are for your support.

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over 200 souls from floodwaters – most a different color from himself - but hadn't fully understood why. Standing before us, he figured it out. In tears, he said, "I did it for world peace. I did it for world peace."

We couldn't help saying to each other, "Everyone should have been here!" Of anywhere on Earth, that was the place for us. It is such afternoons that youth and all generations of all persuasions need to experience often to give us hope and help us see the universal power of a life lived at the highest.

Mayor Beverly O'Neill welcomed us all to Long Beach, followed by an inspired interfaith invocation by Rabbi Harold Schulweis. A



Long Beach Mayor  
Beverly O'Neill

personal account of the sinking of the *Dorchester* was told by survivor Ben Epstein. A soul-stirring rendition of the story (written by US Sen. Orrin Hatch) was beautifully sung by Durell Coleman.

In full uniform and ribbons was 2003 Prize Honoree Elizabeth Strohfus, of the Women Service Volunteers of World War II. America's "Women Airforce Service

Pilots" (WASP), were the first women in history to fly military aircraft in wartime around the world, and forever change the role of women.

*The night of February 3rd 1943, the Four Chaplains calmed young soldiers while handing out life jackets until the last one was gone. Each chaplain took off his own and placed it on the next man in line – not caring about their race or religion. The ship went down 18 minutes after receiving a torpedo. Witnesses told of the final vision of the Four Chaplains standing arm-in-arm on the hull, each praying in his own way for the men.*

*The Four Chaplains, two Protestants, one Catholic priest and a Rabbi were honored posthumously by Congress and Presidents for their selfless acts of courage and faith; first in 1948 with a U.S. postage stamp, and in 1960 with a special Congressional Medal of Valor; never to be repeated. Throughout the voyage and in their last moments, they demonstrated interfaith compassion and respect for the men and for each other. The Prize for Humanity is a living memorial to their example.*

The first 2006 Prize for Humanity honorees were Dr. Yehuda Stolov of the *Interfaith Encounter Association* (interfaith-

encounter.org) in Israel and Palestine, with Ms. Najeeba Sirhan, Palestinian school principal in Israel, representing the IEA colleagues. To counter the escalating violence between Israelis and Palestinians, Dr. Stolov, an Orthodox Jewish-Israeli, organized colleagues from Muslim, Christian, Jewish and Druze faiths in a ground-breaking organization. Since 2001, they have risked their lives to organize public meetings to break down hostility and mistrust. They have created a sustainable model of interfaith understanding and hope in the region.

The next Prize Honoree was Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan M. Rice and U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Teams. During the devastating 2005 Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Coast Guard Rice and his crew of rescue helicopter CG6522 were the first to appear to those abandoned to the storm. Under extreme weather challenges and physical hazards, Rescue Swimmer Rice repeatedly risked all to affect the hoisting rescue of 223 persons, most of different ethnicity. For five days and nights, Jonathan Rice portrayed a positive attitude of hope to those that had lost theirs.

A new foundation honor, "Spirit of the Immortal Chaplains Award" was presented to Rabbi Harold Schulweis, from Temple

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Valley Beth Shalom, Encino, CA. He has spent his life reaching out to other ethnic and faith communities. He was founder of *The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous* honoring those who helped Jews in the Holocaust, and recently, *Jewish World Watch*, to relieve the suffering in Darfur. Rabbi Schulweis told us that, 'in Judaism, a hero is one who can change an enemy into a friend'.

The other "Spirit" exemplar was Tibor Rubin, a Hungarian Jewish teenage survivor of Nazi concentration camps. Rubin emigrated to the U.S. in 1948 and served in the Korean War. He twice covered his unit's retreat alone and was denied the Medal of Honor because of extreme prejudice by his immediate superior. Imprisoned by the Chinese, he risked his life for 30 months to steal food and medicine and saved the lives of 40 fellow prisoners. He was finally awarded the Medal of Honor in September 2005.

Elie Weisel said, and we believe: "People become the stories they hear and the stories they tell."

The stories we heard from these amazingly modest and

seemingly ordinary people were more inspiring than our words can express. We left that never-to-be-forgotten afternoon renewed with hope and feeling empowered to go back to our communities looking for ways to give back and do miracles. We simply could not stop reliving the awe of those real-life stories about the greatness of the human spirit that longs to help others and not just self.

Soon thousands – millions – must be exposed to these stories that transform people and cultures. What is more important than perpetuating the legacies like the Four Immortal Chaplains', whose example of love for others without regard to race, religion or creed, acknowledges the potential for human compassion, and the promise of survival at the highest; where we, our children, and "their" children become more human in a changing world, together – compassionate neighbors forever.

Wow. Just imagine. Then do something impossible. Clearly, you can too.



*Libby Traubman is a retired clinical social worker, Len a retired pediatric dentist. They are co-founders of the 13-year-old Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group, the oldest of its kind, described at [traubman.igc.org](http://traubman.igc.org) They live in San Mateo, Calif.*



European Director Björn Spaude (left) with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, International Patron at the 1999 inaugural Prize for Humanity event in Minnesota.

## Reflections on the 2006 Event

—By Björn Spaude, ICF European Director

I'm back in Germany and still overwhelmed by the impressive memories of the moments we shared during the event on board The Queen Mary. I would again like to focus on the importance of The Prize for Humanity award. We lived the experience of very different faiths and outstanding acts of humanity done in the spirit of the Immortal Chaplains. The Honorees encourage each one of us to continue to recognize and honour people around the globe who dedicate their efforts and lives to help others.

The daily news confronts us with an urgent need for compassion, reconciliation and interfaith communication in order to overcome the striking problems of war, poverty, adversity and separation. The Prize for Humanity must become an instrument to show the world that personal efforts and dedication following the example of the Chaplains, will be rewarded.

Let it be our goal to endow The Prize with a substantial amount of capital in order to further support recipients while perpetuating the legacy of the Immortal Chaplains.

I bring warm greetings from the survivors of U-Boat 223 who join hands with you in remembering the Honorees of the past and honoring these of the present. I am happy to be associated with the Foundation and do look forward to seeing you all again.

## The Prize for Humanity

**1999 Amy Biehl**, American Fulbright Scholar who gave her life in 1989 in the struggle against Apartheid in South Africa. **Charles W. David**, African American Coast Guardsman who gave his life in 1943 to rescue others from the sinking troopship *Dorchester*. **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, Who risked his life to free all South Africans from Apartheid and helped oppressed people of other nations.

**2000 Paul Rusesabagina**, A member of the majority Hutu in Rwanda, he risked all to save 1,000 of the minority Tutsi in the genocide of 1994. **Chiune Sugihara**, Consul-General for Japan in Lithuania in 1940 who defied orders and wrote 6,000 visas for Jews to escape Nazi extermination.

**2001 Pastor Martin Niemoeller**, German minister who defied Hitler face to face for persecuting Jews and others. He was imprisoned for 7 years.

**Hugh C. Thompson, Jr.**, U.S. Army helicopter pilot in Vietnam, who on March 16, 1968, halted the further massacre of Vietnamese civilians at My Lai.

**2002 Omri Al Jadah**, Palestinian known for his compassion to all, gave his life to save a drowning Jewish child in August 2000. **Father Michael Judge**, Chaplain, NYC Fire Dept., as the World Trade Center collapsed on 9/11, he refused to leave praying over a dying fireman.

**2003 Service Volunteers of World War II: Elizabeth Wall Strohfus** - the Women Service Volunteers; **Henry C. Scholberg** - the Non-combatant Service Volunteers; **Tom Oye** - Combat Service Volunteers. **Villagers of the Region Le Chambon-Sur Lignon**, France- Using "weapons of the spirit", they defied Nazi occupation by sheltering 5,000 refugees (mostly Jewish) and preventing their deportation and extermination from 1940-45.

**2004 Fr Joseph O'Callahan**, WWII Chaplain on sinking aircraft carrier, *Franklin*, jettisoned live shells to save men and ship.

**Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn**, first Jewish Chaplain in Marine Corps, served all faiths in fierce battle of Iwo Jima. (Prize on display, Pentagon Chapel, Washington, D.C.)

**2006 Dr. Yehuda Stolov & Interfaith Encounter Association** in Israel & Palestine: **Ms. Najeeba Sirhan**, Palestinian school principal. To counter escalating violence between Israelis and Palestinians, they risked their lives to organize public meetings to break down hostility.

([www.Interfaith-Encounter.org](http://www.Interfaith-Encounter.org)) **Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan M. Rice & U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Teams**: During devastating 2005 'Hurricane Katrina' in New Orleans, Petty Officer Rice and his crew of rescue helicopter CG6522, were the first to appear to those abandoned to the storm. Under extreme weather and physical hazards, Rice repeatedly risked all in the hoisting rescue of 223 persons, most of different ethnicity, for five days and nights.



Prize for Humanity Honorees Ms Najeeba Sirhan and Dr. Yehuda Stolov.



Dorchester survivor Ben Epstein with his wife, Miriam.



2003 Honoree Elizabeth Strohfus and her sister, Celia Bell.



Board Chair Hon. Barry M. Sax, (left) and Executive Director David Fox present Spirit of the Immortal Chaplains Award.



Spirit Awardee Tibor Rubin and Prize for Humanity Honoree Jonathan Rice



Our Spirit Award recipient, Rabbi Harold Schulweis.



Richard Swanson, U.S. Coast Guard rescuer of Dorchester survivors.

### In Memoriam

Hugh C. Thompson, who was a 2001 Prize for Humanity Honoree, has taken his place with the Chaplains, January 2006.

## How You Can Help...

- Your financial help means the world will hear these stories of courage and compassion.
- Arrange for us to speak at groups, congregations, schools and service clubs in your area. (If the distance is great,, please ask for a travel allowance.)
- Send us suggestions for The Prize for Humanity. Criteria are: Those who risked all to protect others of a different faith or ethnicity.
- We are entirely supported by our friends who stand behind us. One can easily contribute online through **PayPal** on our website (click on "How You Can Help").

### The Immortal Chaplains Foundation

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612.272.9109 • [www.ImmortalChaplains.org](http://www.ImmortalChaplains.org)

A Non-profit 501c.3 Charitable Organization • Not affiliated with the Chapel of Four Chaplains, PA

## Milestones of ICF

**1995-97** – Video-taped 20 *Dorchester* survivors in US & 3 *U-223* survivors in Germany

**1997** – Incorporated in Minnesota as a 501c3 charitable organization

**1998** – Commissioned US Senator Orrin Hatch to compose song: "*Four Chaplains on a Sea of Glory*"

Lobbied congress for unanimous proclamation: February 3rd, "Immortal Four Chaplains Day"

First annual commemoration at Ft Snelling Chapel, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on First Sunday in February

**1999** – First Prize for Humanity presentation at Adath Jeshuran Temple, Minneapolis, Minnesota with Archbishop Desmond Tutu as Presenter of Honor, First Sunday in February

**2000** – Co-Production of Public Radio documentary of Chaplains' story on "*Speaking of Faith*" with MPR for National Public Radio (NPR) –

Second annual Prize for Humanity in Washington DC with Senator Bob Dole as Presenter of Honor – First Sunday in February – held in Washington Hebrew Congregation – synagogue of Chaplain Goode

**2001** – Third annual Prize for Humanity at Hamline University, St Paul, Minnesota – with US Senator Paul Wellstone as Presenter of Honor Keynote: Hon. Japanese Ambassador Shunji Yanai; and Hon. Vietnamese Ambassador Li Van Tran – First Sunday in February

**2002** – Fourth annual Prize for Humanity at Hamline University, St Paul, Minnesota with US Senator Norman Coleman as Presenter of Honor – First Sunday in February

**2003** – Fifth annual Prize for Humanity at Hamline University, St Paul, Minnesota – with Senator (MN) Dean Johnson (US Army Vice Chief of Chaplains) Presenter of Honor – First Sunday in February

**2004** – Sixth annual Prize for Humanity in Washington DC for WWII Veterans Committee – with Maj Gen David Hicks, Army Chief of Chaplains, The Pentagon, as Presenter of Honor – Memorial Day Commemoration

Launch of author Dan Kurzman's book, '*No Greater Glory*' by Random House – (ICF supplied him 40 hours of videotapes of survivors)

Nov 11, Veteran's Day – Inaugural presentation of new television documentary for The Hallmark Channel – "*Sacrifice at Sea*" (ICF was Executive Consultant for Faith & Values Production)

**2005** – Receipt of grant from Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation to allow ICF to move offices from Minnesota to Long Beach California on the Queen Mary