



TRAVIS HARTMAN / Staff photographer

HEART FELT — Specialist Greg Gilbert, Marion, hugs Carl Ellet, Marion, after giving him a felt heart during the Four Chaplains Service at American Legion, Post 10 on Sunday afternoon. Gilbert represented Chaplain John Washington, one of the four chaplains that drowned aboard the USS *Dorchester* in 1943.

The Four Immortal honored

Temple, Legion hold ceremonies

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In two separate ceremonies held Sunday some members of the local veteran and Jewish community remember an act of interfaith heroism that happened exactly 60 years ago on Feb. 3, 1943, the sinking of the USS *Dorchester*.

"In the gloom of the tragedy that fell upon America and Israel yesterday, we gather here to remember another tragedy of 60 years ago," said Jeremy Schneider, student rabbi at Sinai Temple.

About 30 people gathered at the Temple, 521 S. Boots St. to commemorate the brave actions of four chap-

lains that were of the 688 that perished with the *Dorchester*. The transport ship sunk shortly after a torpedo struck it while traveling in the frigid waters about 90 miles off the coast of Greenland during World War II.

One of the Chaplains, Alexander D. Goode, served as a student Rabbi at Sinai Temple from 1936 to 1937.

"It gives me chills to think that he (Goode) stood here in this very pulpit and delivered a sermon," said Schneider.

The Four Immortal Chaplains are remembered for giving their own jackets, gloves and life preservers to some of the 902 soldiers that were aboard the sinking ship while offering words of encouragement in the face of the catastrophic event.

ON THE NET:

www.immortalchaplains.org

Goode along with Protestant Chaplains George Fox and Clark Poling and Catholic Priest John Washington were last seen on the deck of the sinking *Dorchester* with their arms linked and heads bowed in prayer.

"I light this candle in memory of Alexander D. Goode," said Dana Fishberg, a member of Sinai Temple during a candle lighting ceremony.

In honor of Goode, the temple dedicated a plaque posted on the inner wall of the building.

A few hours before the ceremony at Sinai Temple people gathered at the American Legion Post 10 for another ceremony to

commemorate the 60th anniversary of the tragic yet heroic event.

"It represents the combined faith of four chaplains that transcend difference of religion," said Brian Killian, a member of American Legion Post 10.

The four chaplains were awarded Purple Hearts, Distinguished Service Crosses for Bravery and the Congressional Special Medals for Valor—the only ones ever given.

In the service at Sinai Temple, Schneider read from a photocopy of the citation of honor that was presented to Goode and hand written letters from two of the survivors of the 1943 tragedy.

"Civilization is not present when nations and races hate each other," said Schneider as he read from one of the letters.