

over his mouth to avoid ammonia fumes from a refrigeration explosion.

Epstein, who was staying in a stateroom on an upper deck, felt his way along a railing until he came to a hanging rope that marked a lifeboat. He shouted to his best friend Vincent Frucelli to follow him down.

"He said he would," Epstein said. "But that was the last time I saw him. I don't know how he died. In blackness, jumping toward the water, it was a terrible thing."

Epstein was thrown into the sea when his lifeboat capsized. He swam until he was pulled onto another lifeboat. Only two of 14 lifeboats successfully pulled away from the ship. Men bobbed in the icy water, dying or dead from exposure. The red light attached to each life preserver made the ship look like it was "lit up like a Christmas tree," said Epstein.

Eardley also was pulled into a boat, after he climbed down the side of the ship on a cargo net. Both men were rescued hours later by a Coast Guard cutter. Near death, they were stripped and laid out on tables in the galley where men massaged their frozen limbs back to life. The ship sank in 20 minutes, and only 230 men survived.

To this day, Eardley remembers his last glimpse of the *Dorchester*.

"The keel was up," Eardley said, "And I could see the four chaplains standing on top of the boat, arm in arm."

According to survivors' testimony, the chaplains spent their last minutes calming disoriented and terrified men and urging them to jump into the sea. Each chaplain gave his life preserver away. They were Lt. George Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, Jewish; Lt. John Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark Poling, Dutch Reformed.

"To take off your life preserver, it meant you gave up your life," said Epstein, who plans to attend the ceremony. "You would have no chance of surviving. They knew they were finished. But they gave it away. Consider that. Over the years I've asked myself this question a thousand times. Could I do it? No I don't think I could do it. Just consider what an act of heroism they performed."

#### THE QUEST FOR SURVIVORS

David Fox had always taken his uncle's heroism for granted. Then in the mid-1990s, while he was working to raise money for a veterans hospice, he suddenly realized that when the *Dorchester's* survivors died, the story would be lost for good. He decided to track down as many as he could and record their memories. His quest soon gained urgency.

"I heard about a survivor in Iowa, by the time I called, he had been dead for six months," Fox said. "I heard about a friend of Rabbi Goode here, in Mendota Heights. I called up and he had died a month ago. I thought, this is crazy. These people are dying, and no one has recorded their stories." Armed with \$1,100 in grants from several veterans organizations, Fox rented a video camera and hit the road in 1996 with his young son.

They interviewed 20 of the 28 known *Dorchester* survivors, traveling to upstate New York, Florida, Massachusetts, California and Illinois. He also contacted the chaplains' family members, including his cousin Wyatt, the son of George Fox, and the widow and daughter of Rabbi Goode. Rosalie Goode Fried, who was three when her father died, enthusiastically supported Fox's idea of starting a foundation that would perpetuate her father's memory.

"If kids could realize that here were four men of different religions who could get

along and minister to each other. It sends a message, why can't we just get along?" said Fried, who is flying from New Jersey for the ceremony.

Fox also decided the story would be incomplete without the German perspective. With the help of German relatives, he traced the chief munitions engineer, the chief of operations and a ship's officer from U-boat 223. None had any idea what they had hit that dark night in 1943.

"Imagine having somebody knock on your door 55 years later and say, 'Hi, you killed my uncle.' Well I didn't say it exactly like that. But they couldn't escape it," said Fox. "They had to face what happened and they had really no idea."

The new submarine had been sent out from Kiel, Germany, on Jan. 12, 1943, to hunt Allied vessels in the North Sea. In the wee hours of Feb. 3, the captain spotted the dark hulk of the *Dorchester* from the tower and ordered a fan of three torpedoes. To avoid detection after the hit, the sub submerged 130 feet, where it stayed for the next six hours. The crew was later captured near Sicily and sent as prisoners to Mississippi.

"When I interviewed the Germans they said, 'You must understand, we were doing our duty,'" said Fox. "They were 18 years old. I almost cried when I saw their photos. They were just kids in hats."

The Germans were touched by the story of the chaplains and quickly offered to support the fledgling Immortal Chaplains Foundation. The effort to establish the foundation hasn't been without some controversy. The Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Philadelphia, which is raising money to build a permanent memorial to the chaplains, has sued Fox's group to block its use of the clerics' image from the stamp and the phrase, the Four Chaplains.

Fox also enlisted the support of Walter Mondale, who serves as the foundation's honorary co-chair. Fox also contacted Archbishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa, who agreed to become the foundation's patron.

"He was immediately taken with it," said Fox.

Tutu will bestow the foundation's first awards on Sunday at Adath Jeshurun Congregation, in what Fox hopes will become an annual event, similar to the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize. The ceremony itself will be interfaith. The U.S. Army's Muslim chaplain will say a prayer. American Indians from Minnesota will offer Tutu a welcome, and the ceremony will close with prayers from Tibetan Buddhist monks.

One award will be bestowed posthumously on an African-American Coast Guardsman named Charles W. David, who died as a result of rescuing men from the *Dorchester*. The other award will be accepted by Linda and Peter Biehl of southern California on behalf of their daughter Amy, who was stabbed to death in South Africa. Biehl was a Stanford University student and Fulbright scholar helping to set up a legal education center.

"I want this to become something like the Nobel Peace Prize, except for ordinary people," said Fox. "Every year, I want to reach down and find someone who is making a difference. Maybe it's a Bosnian Serb who saves a Muslim, or vice versa. Or a Palestinian who reaches out to an Israeli. We need to honor these people who have risked everything to help someone different from themselves."

## A TRIBUTE TO JULIANNE M. DIULUS, BEREA MUNICIPAL COURT

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for 21 years, Julianne M. Diulus has worked at the Berea Municipal court, whose Judge, William C. Todia nominated her for this reward. She works as Judge Todia's secretary and also assists the Court's Probation Officer, Josette Lebron. Her duties include typing correspondence, journal entries and court documents, compiling files for each probationer prior to sentencing and all other secretarial duties for these officers.

Coming from a family of caretakers, Julie believes that it is essential to help others and to do the best at whatever she attempts. She has tried to instill these same values in her children and is proud to have watched her three children, Nicole, Mary and Lewis, grow into adults and achieve their goals.

A resident of Brook Park, Julie is active at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, attends Cuyahoga Community College and loves to read and collect books, fiction, non-fiction and biographies.

She has no human enemies at the Court, but Julie fights constantly with the copier and other machines. As part of her care-taking, she tries to maintain order in the office, but she notes that once, when Ms. Lebron was on vacation, she cleaned and straightened the Probation Officer's desk, only to be told that the effort was appreciated, but that Ms. Lebron could not find anything for days.

## TRIBUTE TO CITIZEN REGENTS ON THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

### HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 1999*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Congressional members appointed to the Smithsonian Board of Regents, Chairman RALPH REGULA and I are pleased to submit Dr. Hanna H. Gray, Mr. Wesley S. Williams, and the Honorable Barber B. Conable to successive terms as citizen regents on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Their personal commitment and dedication to the Smithsonian Institution has been an invaluable asset in our drive to keep the Smithsonian a national treasure for all to enjoy. We thank them for all their hard work and look forward to working with them during the 106th Congress.

HANNA HOLBORN GRAY

THE HARRY PRATT JUDSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Hanna H. Gray was President of the University of Chicago from July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1993, and is now President Emeritus.