

MEMO

October 11, 2011

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: REP. DAN B. FRANKEL

SUBJECT: COSPONSORSHIP OF RESOLUTION— Commemorating the service and sacrifice of four Pennsylvania military Jewish Chaplains

Since 1775, military Chaplains have served as religious and spiritual leaders for millions of soldiers and their families. Chaplain's Hill, located at Arlington National Cemetery, is home to several monuments that pay respect to chaplains who served during various conflicts. In 1926, a monument was dedicated to 23 chaplains who lost their lives in World War I. In 1981, Protestant chaplains who died in World Wars I and II were similarly honored. Eighty-three Catholic chaplains who gave their lives in World War II, Korea and Vietnam were memorialized on a monument in 1989.

On October 24, a new, privately funded memorial will be dedicated at Chaplain's Hill to remember fourteen Jewish chaplains who died in service to their country. Of those fourteen, at least four of them have connections to Pennsylvania. Rabbi Alexander Goode served Temple Beth Israel in York, Pennsylvania, before volunteering to become an army Chaplain in World War II. He was the first Jewish chaplain to give his life for his country. Along with three other army chaplains, Rabbi Goode offered his life jacket to other soldiers as his troopship sank off Greenland in February 1943. Rabbi Meir Engel, the first Jewish Chaplain in Vietnam, served a synagogue in Philadelphia before taking up a career as a military chaplain.

Rabbi Henry Goody, who served a temple in Greensburg, PA, had just graduated rabbinical school and was recently married when World War II started. Like nearly a quarter of all Rabbis' during World War II, he volunteered for service. The fourth chaplain, Solomon Rosen left Rabbinical School and joined the Army Airborne as a soldier after the death of his father. After World War II, he finished rabbinical school and came to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where the Army Chaplain School was based from the late 1940's until 1951.

Next week, I will introduce a resolution commemorating the service and sacrifice of these brave men. If you would like to join me in this endeavor, please contact Carrie Goodyear in my office by phone (705-7019) or email (cgoodyea@pahouse.net).