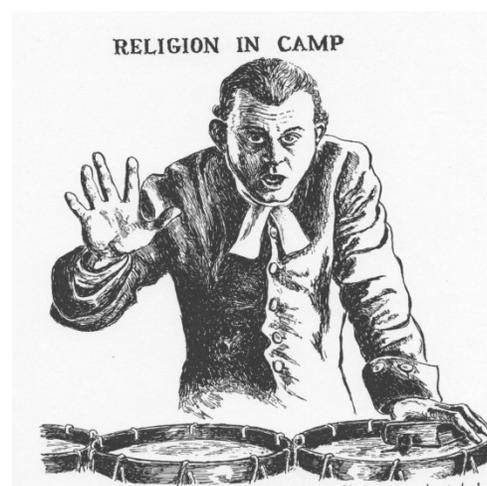
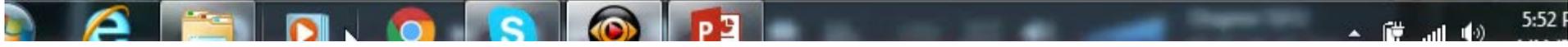


Chaplains of the American Revolution



Points of Light





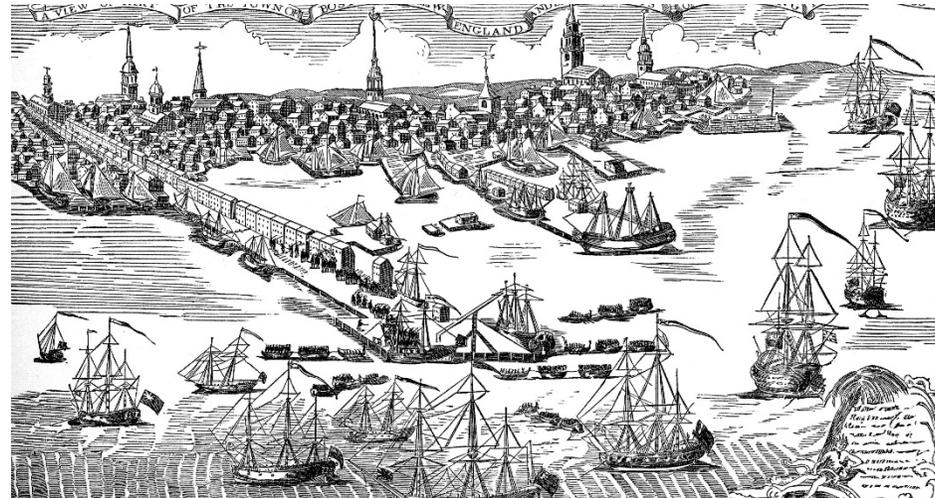
Why did these chaplains matter?

- They were the first chaplains commissioned in U.S. Army history.
- Their duties, responsibilities, pay and staff positions set a model for chaplain ministries over the next 200 years.
- Their example of selfless service inspired both officers and soldiers alike and led to the first chaplains being appointed after the Revolutionary War to the Regular Army of the United States.
- But who were they and where did they come from?



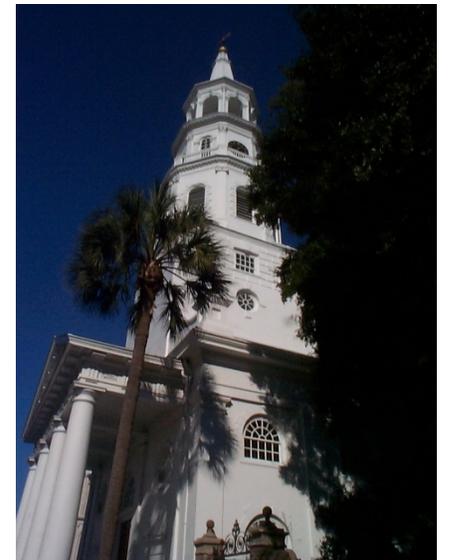
Heirs of a Long Tradition

- 103 American chaplains served in the colonial wars from 1636 through 1768.
- 57 served in the French and Indian War (1755-1768) -including the Rev. Samuel Langdon, President of Harvard College.



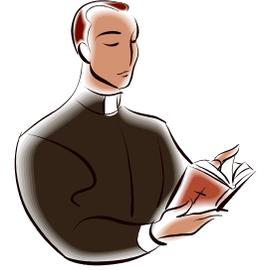
Represented a Relatively Small Number of Church Members

- The 218 Patriot chaplains known to have served during the American Revolution represented 10% of the available clergy in the 13 colonies.
- 99 % of the chaplains were Protestant.
- Approximately 15% of the American population were church members in a total of about 3,200 congregations.
- The average church congregation in 1775 numbered 94 people of all ages.





Faith Groups Represented



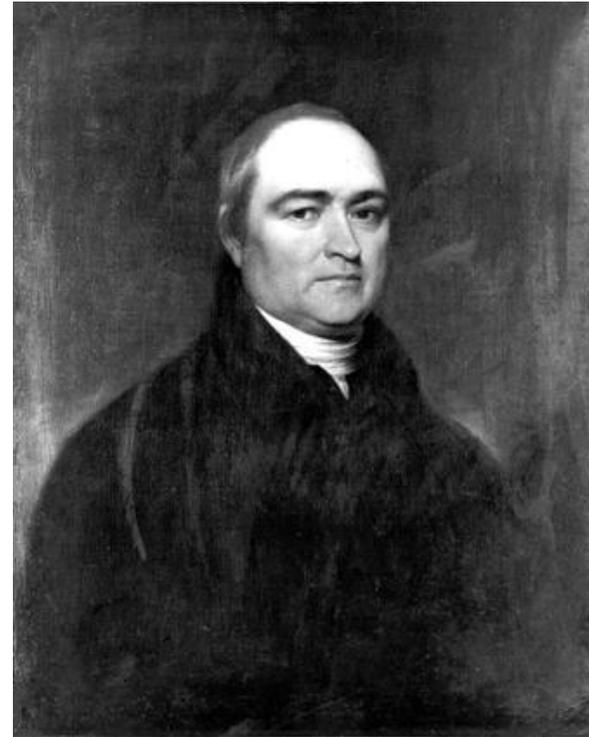
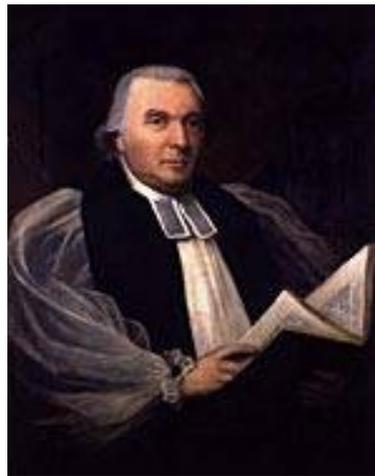
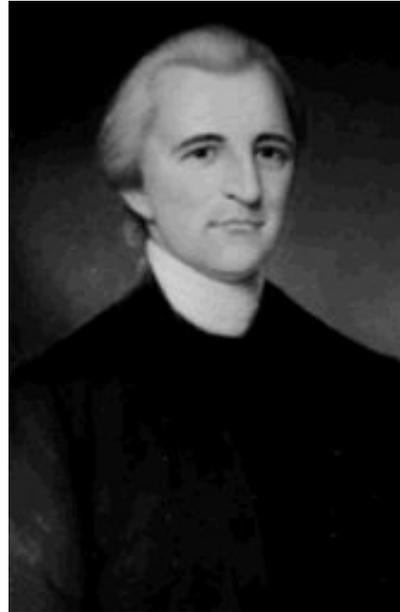
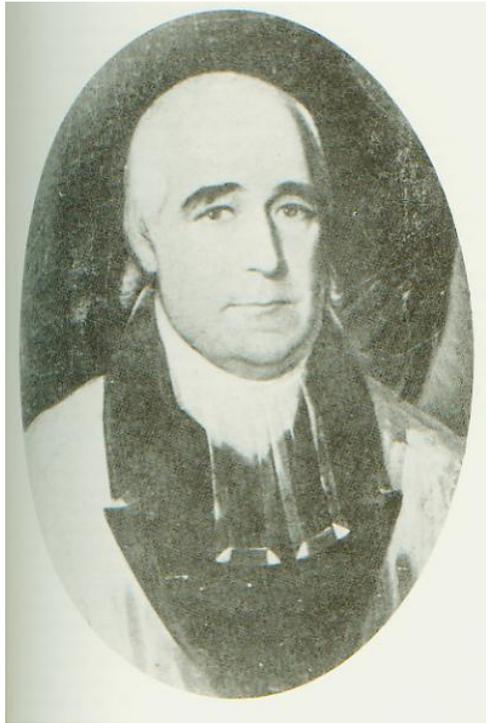
- Fifty-six per cent of Revolutionary War -Patriot Chaplains were from five New England states- Mass, Conn, RI, NH, Vermont.
- Eight Denominations of Patriot Chaplains are known:
Congregationalists (52%); Presbyterian (23%); Anglican (12%), Baptist (6%), Reformed (4%); Lutheran (2%); Universalist-1 ea., Roman Catholic-1 ea. (Father Louis Lotbiniere from Canada).
- Summary: 79% of 143 American Patriot Chaplains were from Calvinistic faith groups, traditionally opposed to English colonial policies.

Colonial Educational Background



- Of 141 Patriot Chaplains whose educational background is known, 122 graduated from colonial American colleges:
- Yale (47), Harvard (32), Princeton (24), College of Philadelphia -Univ. of Pa. (8), King's College-Columbia (3), Dartmouth (3) ; William and Mary (3) and Brown (2).
- Seven graduated from British universities (Edinburgh, Cambridge, Oxford, Trinity).
- Seventy-eight percent of Patriot Chaplains whose educational background is known (111/141) went to Congregational or Presbyterian Colleges.

Did they all look alike?



Acts of the British Parliament



- English Bill of Rights – 1689 did not apply to Americans
- Stamp Act- March 1765 (repealed 1766 followed by The Declaratory Act: Parliament continued to insist that it had the right to legislate for the colonies "in all cases whatsoever.")
- Townshend Acts-July 1767 (repealed 1770 except for Tea Tax) followed by
 - Boston Massacre –March 1770
 - Boston Tea Party- December 1773
- Coercive Acts: Boston Port Act, Government Act, Justice Act, Quartering Act, Quebec Act- March 1774
- Gen. Thos. Gage, appointed the Military Gov. of Mass.- April 1774
- 1st Continental Congress (Sept-Oct 1774)- 12 colonies to boycott British trade goods
- Parliament and George III declared American colonies in rebellion-February 1775

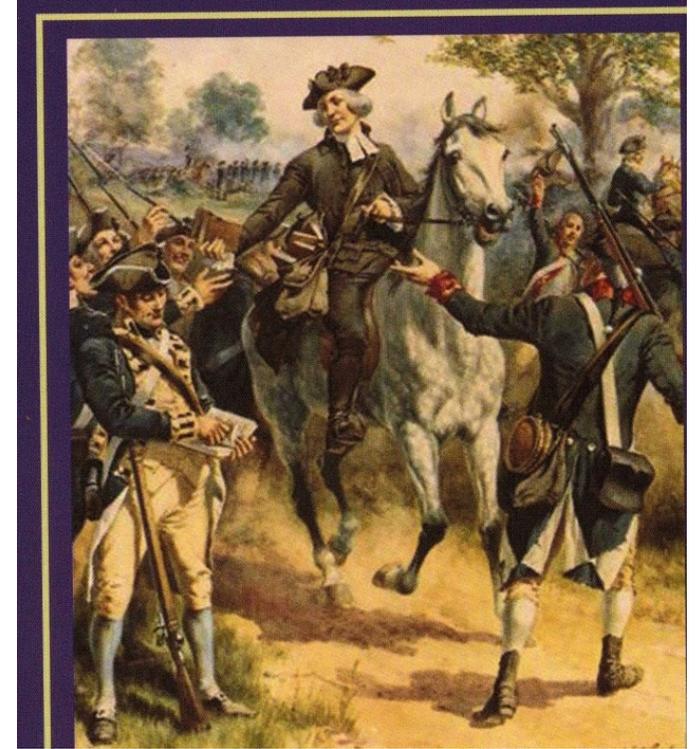
In Their Own Words

- Rev. William Tennent III, Charleston, SC , Aug 2, 1774
- Rev. Oliver Hart, Charleston, SC, August 1775
- Rev. Richard Furman, Richardson's Brigade, SC Militia
- Chaplain Paul Turquand, Huguenot Battalion, SC Militia
- Chaplain Abiel Leonard, 3rd Connecticut Rgmt, Knox's Artillery
- Chaplain David Jones, 4th Pennsylvania Rgmt, Ft. Ticonderoga
- Chaplain Joab Trout, New Hampshire Rgmt, Brandywine, Pa. 1777
- Chaplain Thomas Allen, Ft Ticonderoga, New York 1777
- Chaplain Hezekiah Smith, 6th Massachusetts Rgmt, 1779
- Chaplain John Hurt, 1st Virginia Brigade, Valley Forge, Pa.



Summary: Motives to Serve

- Self-defense of homes and firesides.
- To maintain the rights of free men...
- Support for soldiers from their own towns, counties, colonies, and denominations.
- Loyalty to their extended family and friends including those in other colonies.
- For the cause of civil and religious liberty and therefore to disestablish the Church of England in America.



Official Warrant to Serve

- By what authority were chaplains to be commissioned and paid?
- The 2nd Continental Congress authorized chaplains to serve in the Continental Army with a bill passed July 29, 1775—almost a year before the Declaration of Independence was signed.
- Congress had set a precedent in 1775- chaplains were to be paid from the public funds and granted the standing of commissioned officers.



How were chaplains accessioned on duty?



- By volunteering to serve with a unit such as a regiment or brigade. For example, militia units often brought their own chaplains with them to the Continental Army. Many of these militia chaplains had been pastors of the men back home.
- By applying directly to a commander for assignment to a unit. If a minister or priest volunteered on his own, it was easy to find a unit that needed a chaplain.
- However, General Washington wanted to match the denomination of the chaplain with the faith preferences of the soldiers, an accommodation unknown in the British forces.

Gen. Washington's Requirements to be a Chaplain-1776

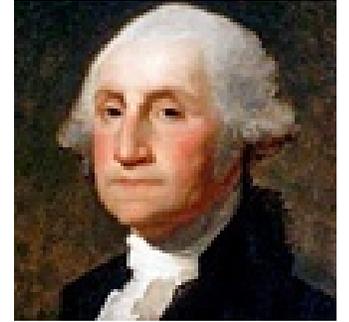


- No educational requirement or military background
- No endorsement
- No age restriction
- BUT “Be men of ability, gentlemen whose Lives and Conversation are unacceptationable, men of Character, who will influence the manners of the Corps both by precept and example.”
- Be able to minister to a regiment or brigade in the manner to which they are accustomed.

Gen. Washington and Free Exercise

- “Religious disputes in the Army should above all things be avoided, and in many instances would compell men to a mode of worship which they do not profess.”
- “Every regiment should have an opportunity of having a chaplain of their own religious sentiments...”
- “Protect and support the Free Exercise of Religion of the Country and the undisturbed Enjoyment of the rights of conscience in Religious Matters...” 14 September, 1775.

Evolution of Chaplain Duties



- There was no Chaplain School for training or written doctrine for chaplains serving in the Continental Army. Their duties came directly from their commanders.
- General George Washington therefore specified duties for chaplains throughout the war:
- (1776) Chaplains will be persons of good character and exemplary lives; they will read the Military Law to soldiers every Monday;
- Chaplains will offer public prayers and read proclamations to soldiers; (1778) Chaplains will conduct Divine Services Sunday at 11 o'clock; Chaplains will inspire courage and moral conduct and encourage soldiers not to desert; (1783) Chaplains will visit the sick and wounded soldiers in hospital; (1783) Chaplains will not absent themselves from camp without approval.



Uniforms, Pay, Benefits

- There were no authorized uniforms for chaplains until the Civil War (US Army Regulations of 1861). Some chaplains like William Emerson had a uniform made.
- On 29 July 1775 Congress voted to pay Continental Army chaplains \$20 a month (\$400 in today's currency). General Washington secured a raise for them in February of 1776 to \$33.33 a month (\$666.60), but by 1780 the Continental dollar was worth 1/40 of the 1775 value.
- Certificates of service were issued at Newburgh, NY, at the end of the war in lieu of back pay. Many soldiers walked home.

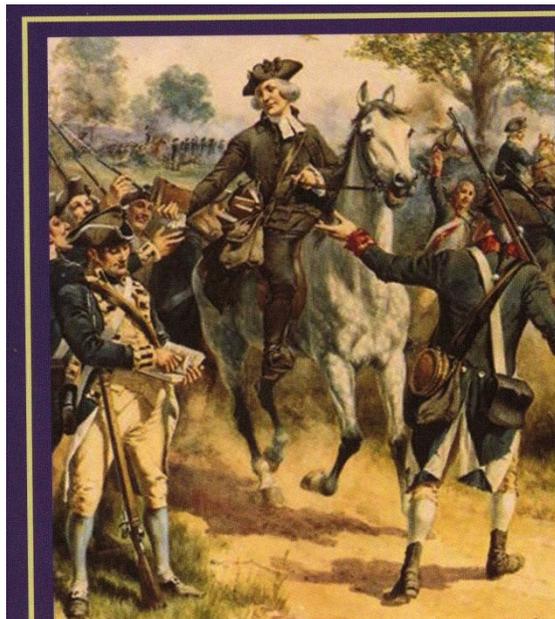
Battlefield Chaplains Remembered: John Martin at Bunker Hill, 1775



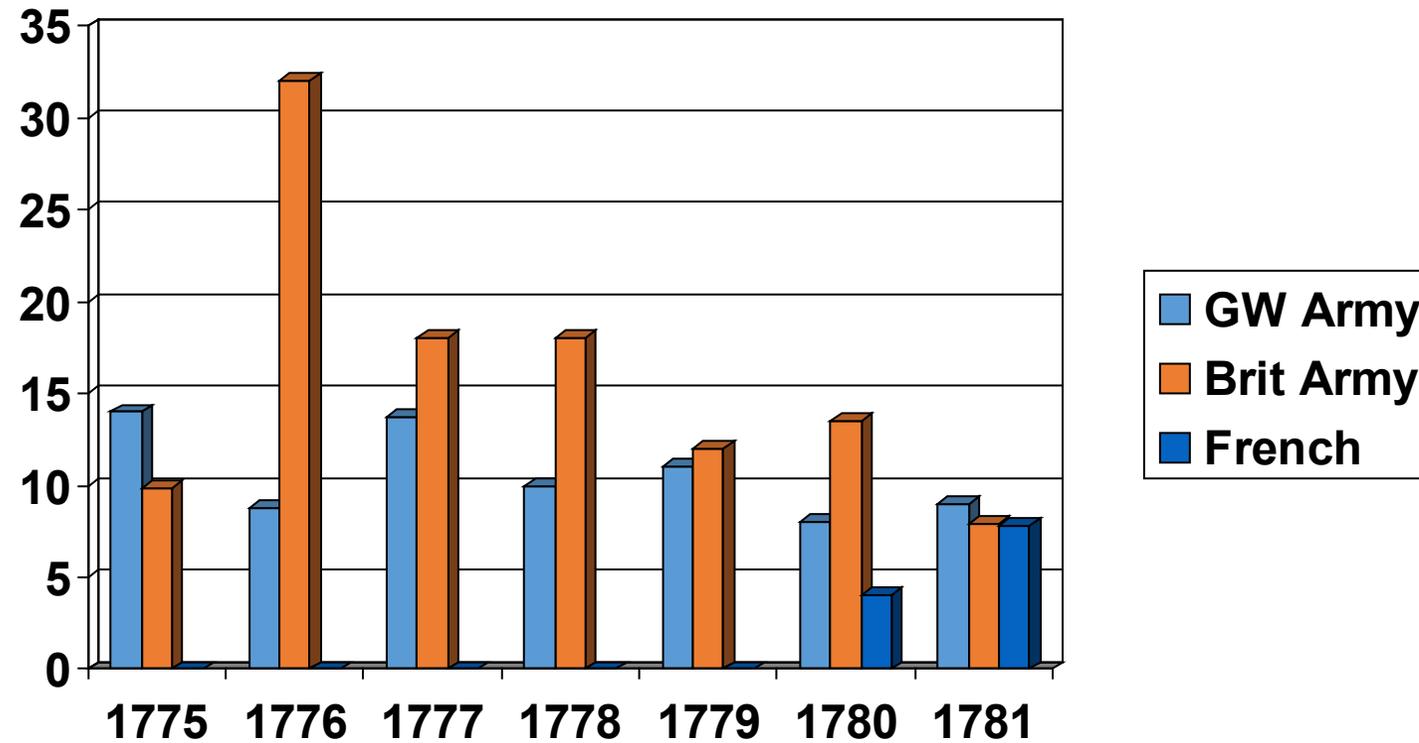
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Henry Purcell at Fort Sullivan, SC, 1776



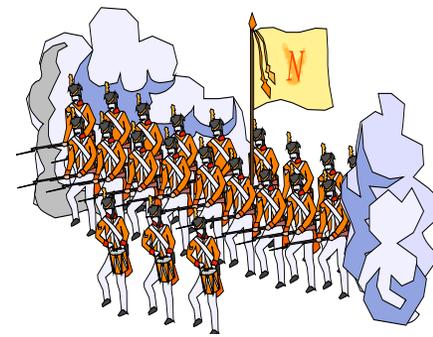
Chaplain James Caldwell at Springfield, NJ, June 1780



Relative Strength of Armies



Casualties



- Of 218 known Patriot chaplains, 25 died during the war (11.4%). That is the greatest percentage of chaplain fatalities for any of America's wars.
- American Patriot soldiers killed, wounded, or captured: 22, 644 includes 8,000 POW deaths. (10 .4% rate of 217,000 who served.)
- British/German casualties: 29,341 includes 13,587 captured at Saratoga and Yorktown (22% rate of 135,000 in 53 regiments.) The 23,000 Hessian soldiers had a 32% casualty rate at the war's end; 6,354 died of disease.

American Generals Lost 1775-81

- BG Richard Montgomery, 1775
- MG John Thomas, 1776 (dis.)
- BG Hugh Mercer, 1777
- MG Charles Lee, 1778
- MG Philip Schuyler, 1779
- MG John Sullivan, 1779
- MG Benedict Arnold, 1780
- BG Daniel Morgan, 1780
- MG Johan De Kalb, 1780
- MG Horatio Gates, 1780
- BG (Count) Casimir Pulaski, 1779

Total: 4 BGs, 7 MGs KIA or Ret.

- Captured and exchanged: -BG William Moultrie, 1780
- -MG Benjamin Lincoln, 1780
- -MG William Alexander, Lord Sterling, 1776
- Wounded but recovered:
- -Marquis de Lafayette, 1777
- -MG Thomas Conway, 1778

- Note: Congress initially approved only four MG and eight BG positions to assist Gen. George Washington.



Population Casualties and Economic Impact of the Revolution

- A smallpox epidemic, 1775-1782, was estimated to have killed 130,000 people in America.
- The British National Debt rose from 43 million pounds (1770) to 250 million pounds (1782) , the French spent 1.3 billion livres and the United States about \$150 million.

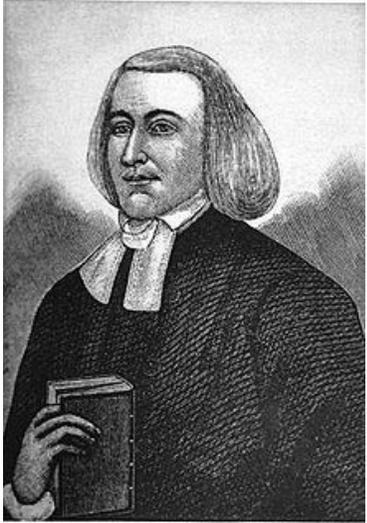


Gratitude to God

- Oct 19, 1781 General Orders: Troops not on duty shall attend a service of Thanksgiving “with gratitude of heart which the recognition of such reiterated and astonishing interposition of Providence demands of us.”
- General Washington to the Continental Congress, 15 Nov 1781: “I take particular pleasure in acknowledging that the interposing Hand of Heaven, in the various instances of our extensive Preparation for this Operation at Yorktown has been most conspicuous and remarkable.”



Temple of Virtue, Newburgh, NY, 1783



JOHN GANO.



Accolade for Chaplains

- “The Commander in Chief desires and expects the Chaplains to constantly attend the sick, and while they are thus publicly and privately engaged in performing the sacred duties of their office, they may depend upon his utmost encouragement and support on all occasions, that they will be considered in a very respectable point of light by the whole army.”

Gen. Washington, General Orders, 15 Feb 1783



Legacies of the Founders

- Personal delivery of religious support; first Army chapel
- One chaplain per brigade (1/800-1500 troops)
- Free exercise of religion in a pluralistic Army
- Chaplains commissioned as officers-paid as captains
- Chaplains serving as noncombatants and thus eligible for early exchange
- Chaplains prepared to follow orders as religious leaders and staff officers
- Chaplains serve as educators, moral leaders, preachers, and pastors for both officers and soldiers
- And the INDEPENDENCE of the United States of America!

Other Chaplains Remembered...From the Battlefield to Halls of Learning

