Celebrating the History and Heritage of Navy Chaplains

Oct. 30, 1799
First chaplain to serve in the U.S. Navy, Chaplain William Balch

Aug. 4, 1912
First Navy chaplain to serve exclusively with the Marine Corps, Chaplain J.F. Flemming

Oct. 30, 1917
First Jewish chaplain to be commissioned, Rabbi David Goldberg

Nov. 5, 1917
First Chief of Navy Chaplains, Chaplain John Frazier

March 1943
First chaplain to serve with an operational Coast Guard unit, Chaplain Harlon Miller

July 28, 1944
First African-American chaplain to be commissioned in the Navy, Chaplain J.F. Flemming

July 2, 1973
First female chaplain to be commissioned in the DoD, Chaplain Dianna Pohlman

First Chief of Navy Chaplains, Chaplain John Frazier

Aug. 20, 1998
First Muslim chaplain to be commissioned in the Navy, Chaplain Monje Malak Abd al-Muta’Ali Noel Jr.

July 22, 2004
First Buddhist chaplain to be commissioned in the DoD, Chaplain Jeanette Shin

Ships Named for Navy Chaplains

USS Schmitt (DE 676)  USS Capodanno (FF 1093)
USS Kirkpatrick (DE 318)  USS Rentz (FFG 46)
USS O'Callahan (FF 1051)  USS Laboon (DDG 58)