

MATHIS & DONHEISER, P.C.
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS

1412 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2600
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202
(214) 303-1919
FAX (214) 303-0399
www.mathisdonheiser.com

RANDAL G. MATHIS

Writer Direct:
(214) 661-8915
rmathis@mathisdonheiser.com

July 19, 2019

VIA EMAIL: vcs.canteen@med.va.gov

Joseph Tober, MA Executive Director
Veterans Canteen Service (VCS)
Attention: VCS Director's Office
#1 Jefferson Barracks Road, Building #25
St. Louis, MO 63125-4194

Re: Dallas VA Canteen Service (VCS) Patriot Store
Military Religious Freedom Foundation
Mikey Weinstein, Founder

Dear Mr. Tober:

Our office represents Mikey Weinstein and the Military Religious Freedom Foundation.

The Foundation has received the attached email dated yesterday concerning the Patriot Store at the Dallas VA Medical Center. Identifying information concerning its author has been redacted at their request.

Since this email was sent to Mr. Weinstein yesterday, twelve other veterans who are also patients of your VA medical facility here in Dallas, of various religious faiths and no faith traditions, have contacted the Foundation on the same subject.

The Foundation's understanding is that it is against VCS policy to sell or promote religious items. Nevertheless, it is apparently being done and, as the attached email points out, it is with an "overt favoritism of a specific religious world view."

We understand the author of the email, after voicing his complaint, was assured that the situation would be corrected, but it has not. All aside from constitutional separation of church and state issues, diversity in the military and among veterans necessitates respect for both those of all faiths or those without any. To promote what the email describes as Christian memorabilia would, at a minimum, require equal representation for many other groups. Promotion of one over another is not only unacceptable constitutionally but also in direct violation of existing policy.

Mr. Joseph Tober

July 19, 2019

Page 2

Whether it's religion, race, national origin, or gender, preference of one over another is contrary to what we are all about. Patriotism can be promoted without intermingling it with religion.

Please take steps to immediately ensure that the situation is corrected, or made inclusive of everyone.

If you would like to discuss the matter, please let me know and I will be glad to put you in touch with Mr. Weinstein.

Very truly yours,



Randal Mathis

RM:lf

Attachment