

Friday Evening, May 17, 2019



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
f o u n d a t i o n

**MANCHESTER, NH VA
DOUBLES DOWN ON
CHRISTIAN FAVORITISM**

ABC TV WMUR-9 COVERS MRFF

MRFF's Founder and President Mikey Weinstein Regarding
Removal of Faith and Non-Faith Texts Placed by
Courageous MRFF Veteran Client Next To Bible on
POW/MIA Table at Manchester, NH VA Medical Center (VAMC)



[Click to Watch Video \(1min 27sec\)](#)

**VA orders removal of religious texts added to missing
man table at medical center**

By: Siobhan Lopez, Thursday, May 16, 2019

(Excerpts from WMUR-9/Emphasis Added by MRFF)

MANCHESTER, N.H. — A patient at the Manchester VA Medical Center placed religious texts representing multiple faiths next to a Bible that's part of a prisoner of war/missing in action display Thursday, but they were promptly

removed by Veterans Affairs staff.

[...]

“It's not about Christianity,” said Mikey Weinstein, of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. “It's about the proper time, place and manner in which people feel they can deploy their faith.”

Weinstein said the majority of his clients in Manchester are practicing Christians, but **they want all veterans to be represented.**

[...]

“Our response is just five words: Tell it to the judge,” Weinstein said. “We'll see you in federal court.”

[...]

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MRFF GUEST COLUMNIST OP-ED ON DAILY KOS

MRFF Client, USAF Veteran on Christian Privileged POW/MIA Bible Display at Manchester NH, VA

By: Sandra Bell, Friday, May 17, 2019

(Excerpts from Daily Kos/Emphasis Added by MRFF)



[Op-ed by Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) Guest Columnist Sandra Bell] — As a

former USAF Airman Intelligence Analyst and ex-practicing Christian, who was baptized as recently as 2010, I am now a devout non-believing humanist. I receive my medical care at the Manchester VA Medical Center. I used to feel good about going there. I'd take in the flags and symbols of service and feel honor for having served. Now I experience disgust,

knowing that as soon as I enter, there will be a Catholic bible in my face, displayed by the government I've entrusted with my medical care. Each visit I'm reminded of people telling me to ignore the bible, find another medical center, or even leave the country since I'm not Christian.

[...]

It's not the government's place to promote the Catholic Church or any church to veterans seeking medical care. I hope we can agree that a book

so steeped in controversy and charged with complicated symbolism isn't an appropriate addition to a table meant to honor all POW/MIA soldiers. **The bible doesn't represent many of them, just as it doesn't represent me.**

As their newest client on this matter at the Manchester VAMC, I am grateful for **Mikey Weinstein, President and Founder of Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF), for his emotional and practical support through this difficult time.** It is a comfort to know that as an atheist, I have a platform for my voice to be heard. I am also grateful to attorney Sam Grover for guidance on this piece.

Sandra Bell is an Air Force veteran and the newest client of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) due to the issue of a Catholic bible being placed on the POW/MIA display at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Manchester, New Hampshire. She believes in the progression of the human species through science and reason.

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MAY 7, 2019

**MRFF FILED A FEDERAL LAWSUIT
AGAINST MANCHESTER VA OVER
UNCONSTITUTIONAL CHRISTIAN BIBLE**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

JAMES CHAMBERLAIN,)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
ALFRED MONTOYA, MD, DIRECTOR,)
MANCHESTER VA MEDICAL CENTER,)
Defendant.)

COMPLAINT

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This is an action requesting injunctive relief pursuant to the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America. The plaintiff, JAMES CHAMBERLAIN, and others are seeking the removal of a Christian Bible from the POW/MIA table in the entrance way of the Manchester VA Medical Center.

JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b).

VENUE

Venue is proper for the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff, JAMES CHAMBERLAIN, is a veteran of the United States Air Force and a resident of New Hampshire. He was raised Catholic but now is a

[Click to Read Final Complaint](#)

**Christian Bible Encased in Plexiglass
and Bolted to POW/MIA Display Table
at VA Manchester, NH.**



Photo credit:
Military Religious Freedom Foundation

**CLICK TO READ BACKGROUND ON
MANCHESTER VA BIBLE ISSUE, PROTEST
FLYOVER, AND FILING OF FEDERAL LAWSUIT**



"You are a strait-up BadAss"

From: (name withheld)
Subject: You are a strait-up BadAss
Date: May 16, 2019 at 8:20:36 PM MDT
To: mikey@militaryreligiousfreedom.org

Mikey,
You are a ship, of sorts. You must carry on. It strait-up sucks to be the guy that lights the path, AND leads the way, like an ice-breaker. Yet, you are that guy, Mikey. Here's the lyrics of "Ship".

*It's a ship
It's anchored in the bay*

*I believe it's time for you to go
Here's a tip
I don't think it's going to stay
It's not coming back here
anymore
There's a light
Shines like water to the deck
Hands and ropes will drag you
from the sea
It's alright
We all get a little wet
Hearts to be discovered
Wonders to be seen
Listen very closely
Hear the ocean roar
Calling you to sail beyond the
curve
Family, friends and lovers
Are waving from the shore
You're the only master that you
serve
You are done here
It's time to go
There's a rock
And we're drifting into it
Keep your steady gaze upon
the stars
It's a shock
We all bleed a little bit
Our future has been written in
the scars
Pirates, ghosts and oil slicks
Torpedoes and the sharks
Conspire to drag you to the deep
With spit and grit and metal
You keep kicking at the dark
Break through to the light that
you seek
You are done here
Time to go
It's a ship
It's anchored in the bay
I believe it's time to pack and go
It's a ship
I don't think it's going to stay
You're not coming back here
anymore
Hear the bodhisattva
Calling out your name*

*Can't you hear the sermon on
the mount
Jesus and Mohammed
The message is the same
Love is the only treasure that
still counts
Listen very closely
Hear the ocean roar
Calling you to sail into the sun
A beauty and a brilliance
Like you've never seen before
I believe you've only just begun
You are done here
It's time to go
You are sailing
It's time to go*

(name withheld)

You MUST carry on, Mikey. Guys like (name withheld) don't choose guys like you, mindlessly. Thank you for lighting a path, and leading the way.

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MRFF Information/Contact:
(505) 250-7727

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our Fight in the Courts and in the Media**

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