

Friday, February 22, 2019



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

AIR FORCE LEGAL OPINION LEAKED TO MRFF - REVEALS APPROVAL OF RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION

"In apparent defiance of its own regulations and the First Amendment, the judge advocate general (JAG) of the Air Force has issued an opinion approving religious expression during an official change of command ceremony.

***The opinion** (click to read), which was leaked to the **Military Religious Freedom Foundation** (emphasis added) (and a copy of which was shared with this reporter), allows even more expansive expression during a purportedly "private" promotion ceremony, conducted after a mere ten-minute break."*

-Excerpt from Religion Dispatches Article.



RELIGION DISPATCHES

COVERS MRFF ON HOMEPAGE

Leaked Air Force Legal Opinion Approves Religious Expression

By: Paul Rosenberg

Thursday, February 21, 2019

According to a retired attorney for the DOD, "When you proselytize as a commander...you necessarily send doubts to the subordinates that you oversee about your impartiality and thus degrade good order and discipline, and in turn degrade combat capability."

In apparent defiance of its own regulations and the First Amendment, the judge advocate general (JAG) of the Air Force has issued an opinion approving religious expression during an official change of command ceremony.

The opinion, which was leaked to the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (and a copy of which was shared with this reporter), allows even more expansive expression during a purportedly "private" promotion ceremony, conducted after a mere ten-minute break. Going beyond lax enforcement of recent cases, **MRFF President Mikey Weinstein called it "a direct and defiant nuclear attack against the First Amendment's separation of church and state."**

"The JAG opinion is definitely wrong," Andrew Seidel, counsel for the Freedom From Religion Foundation told RD. Alex Luchenitser, associate legal director for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, agreed.

"We think this opinion is unconstitutional, that this violates the religious freedom and the separation of church and state," Luchenitser said.

[...]

RELATED: MIKEY's OP-ED - 6/23/18

**USAF Embarrasses Itself With Statement
Allowing God-Drenched Flag Folding
Ceremony – AGAIN. Fundamentalist First
Liberty Institute Pounces
with Glee on New Poster Child**

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**AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FROM MRFF
TO USAFA PROFESSOR CRAIG FOSTER,
AUTHOR OF THE BELOW GUEST OP-ED:**

*"A TREMENDOUS THANK YOU to Craig Foster, Professor of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at the U.S. Air Force Academy! I speak on behalf of MRFF's 12 USAFA LGBTQ MRFF clients (from the USAFA faculty, Cadet Wing and staff) who came to us in outrage and fear and asked for MRFF's help. As a faculty member at USAFA, the writing of this Op-Ed, **(which was in no way initiated or arranged by MRFF)** took nonpareil GUTS, honor, character, leadership, and integrity... all splendid qualities that are NOT being furthered by USAFA via Bullard's invitation to speak at USAFA's National Character & Leadership Symposium!"*

*~ Michael L. "Mikey" Weinstein
Founder and President
Military Religious Freedom Foundation*

**COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE
GUEST OP-ED**

Air Force Academy spoils seminar

by inviting Chick-fil-A

By: Craig A. Foster

Thursday, February 21, 2019

The United States Air Force Academy is about to kick off its National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS). Being a long-time professor at the academy, I was saddened to see that NCLS invites a controversy that I thought was behind us.

NCLS is a big deal. A team of people work year round to plan this high-profile event. Classes are suspended to ensure that cadets have time to go. Faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to attend sessions as well.

NCLS also has a history of featuring amazing speakers. This year is no different, but one speaker is a real head scratcher — Rodney Bullard, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility at Chick-fil-A.

[...]

[Click to view on Colorado Springs Gazette](#)

USA TODAY ARTICLE

RE: BLADENSBURG CROSS, OF WHICH MRFF FILED A "FRIEND OF THE COURT" AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF IN OPPOSITION



Photo credit: Ben Jacobson ([Kranar Drogin](#)), [World War I Memorial, Bladensburg, Maryland 003](#).

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Does a 40-foot Latin cross honoring World War I veterans violate the Constitution? The Supreme Court will decide.

By: Richard Wolf (USA Today)

Thursday, February 21, 2019

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court will be on trial itself next week when it weighs the fate of a 40-foot Latin cross honoring World War I dead that reignited the nation's never-ending battle between church and state.

At first glance, the question before the Supreme Court seems simple enough:

Does the monument violate the First Amendment, which prohibits government establishment of religion?

But the answer is complicated by opinion after opinion from the court over the past several decades.

Look no further than how the judicial system itself has officially characterized the thorny issue – "murky," "muddled" and "morass" are ways judges, lawyers and constitutional scholars describe the court's rules for government involvement with religion. Also "unclear," "unsound" and "unworkable."

By the justices' own admission, the court's interpretations of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause have left the law in "chaos," "disarray" and "shambles."

[...]

[Click to view on USA Today](#)

**BACKGROUND ON MRFF & THE
BLADENSBURG CROSS:**



U.S. Supreme Court Rally
Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019
MRFF's Mikey Weinstein to Join
Roster OF Esteemed Speakers

MRFF's "FRIEND OF THE COURT" AMICUS CURIAE
BRIEF AND CONTEXT REGARDING
OPPOSITION OF BLADENSBURG CROSS

5/7/15 - MRFF & AHA Join Forces in Court vs.
Unconstitutional Bladensburg "Peace Cross"

2/26/14 - Why We Sued Bladensburg, MD Over a 40-
Foot Cross (*The Humanist*)

MRFF Information/Contact:
(505) 250-7727

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our Fight in the Courts and in the Media**

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